FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BIGNONE MEETS PRESS UPON RETURN FROM NEW DELHI

PY141617 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0220 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Mar (TELAM) -- President Reynaldo Bignone categorically denied last night that Argentine foreign policy underwent a 180-degree turn, noting that it had not changed, that it was continuous and was based on its long-standing major principles.

Showing visible signs of fatigue, General Bignone added that these principles were equality among nations, respect for the principle of self-determination of the peoples, and noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries. He added that what had changed, though not in a 180-degree turn, was the international order within which Argentina operates.

Those political actions undertaken regarding foreign policy matters in keeping with the above principles and with the country's national interests in no way represent a change in policy, he said. He noted that Argentina has belonged to the Nonaligned Movement for almost 20 years because it agrees with the great principles of this movement. What was new, he said, was that the Argentine president participated in the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement.

During the press conference granted upon arriving at Ezeiza airport, the president of the nation explained that the terms of his speech establishing the Argentine position were discussed previously with the military junta. Moreover, Bignone asked the journalist who asked this question whether he would believe that the junta would not be informed about them.

Asked about the meetings he held in New Delhi with Yasir 'Arafat and Fidel Castro, Bignone said that he thought that we were mixing things up. He explained that, on the one hand, there was the fundamental fact of the conference itself, the Argentine presence there and the meetings of the president of the nation with different chiefs of state; and, on the other hand, the other important event was the speech delivered by the Argentine president, because obviously the Argentine position was clearly established in that speech regarding the different international political issues. The Argentine president took that opportunity to reiterate that this position was only the reaffirmation of ideas expressed by the Argentine Foreign Ministry at other international forums.

He said: Those situations incidental to the meeting such as the talks I held with President Fidel Castro -- not my words of praise for Castro as you, Mr Journalist, said -- are also a different matter. I never praised Fidel Castro. I thinked him for his emphatic support for the Republic of Argentina and for having previously stated his political differences with the Argentine Government.

Regarding his meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, he said this was a different meeting, that it had a different nature and was altogether incidental. He said that phrase it does not hurt to be courteous [lo cortes no quita lo valiente] could be applied to this meeting.

In reply to a question, Bignone noted that his remarks at the nonaligned conference in no way implied an ideological commitment for the country. He emphasized that the country will in no way change its ideology. This should be made absolutely clear. He noted that in his talks with Castro, the Cuban president himself stated that despite his differences with the Republic of Argentina he supported the Argentine position.

In this respect he said Argentina has an established position irrespective of which government is in office. He also noted that two-thirds of the world's countries were represented at the Nonaligned Conference.

Bignone also emphasized the presence of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with whom he held a long, important meeting and at which Perez de Cuellar expressed great interest in the Malvinas issue because the United Nations had entrusted him with the mission of conducting negotiations with Great Britain on the sovereignty dispute over the islands.

Asked whether his meeting with 'Arafat could have brought a change in the Arab countries' position toward Argentina, Bignone said: This question should be answered by the Arab countries. I believe that had I not met with 'Arafat, I would have damaged the situation.

Still commenting on the Yasir 'Arafat-Fidel Castro issue, Bignone said he did not know about the pictures of the above two leaders at the New Delhi summit having been censured by Argentine television officials. He said the Argentine people were mature enough to see these pictures.

Asked when he would inform the military junta and the members of the cabinet about the conclusions of the Nonaligned Conference, he noted that as soon as he arrived at the Olivos presidential residence he would telephone each of the Armed Forces commanders, since he was very interested in speaking with each one of them. He added that he would surely discuss this issue with cabinet members during the cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Asked whether Argentina would officially announce the cessation of hostilities against Great Britain, something which is demanded by the latter for the resumption of negotiations with Argentina, Bignone said that Argentina had reasserted several times that a de facto cessation of hostilities was in force just as there was a de facto initiation of hostilities. He added: When there is no official declaration of war, there is no need to issue an official cessation of hostilities. This is Argentina's position in this regard.

Asked whether he believed that Argentina's position at the United Nations would be strengthened as a result of its participation in the Nonaligned Conference, Bignone said that he truly believed that this was going to be the case. But he noted that this was a personal position. However, he added that the one thing he was sure of was that if Argentina had not attended the nonaligned conference, Argentina's position at the next UN General Assembly session would have been weakened. After making this statement, Bignone left the Ezeiza airport press room accompanied by Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari and presidential spokesman Eduardo Maschwitz, who also attended the Nonaligned Conference.

The Argentine Air Force plane that brought President Bignone back from New Delhi landed in Ezeiza airport at 2020. The transfer of power from Interior Minister Llamil Reston back to Bignone took place immediately after the president's arrival.

The ceremony was held on the first floor of the airport's international sector and was headed by acting notary public Eduardo Carranza Velez. The ceremony was also attended by members of the national cabinet.

The first to arrive at the airport was Social Welfare Minister Adolfo Navajas Artaza. Also present at the ceremony were Public Works Minister Conrado Bauer; Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe; Labor Minister Hector Villaveiran; Education Minister Cayetano Licciardo, Defense Minister Julio Vivot; CNEA [National Atomic Energy Commission] Chairman Carlos Castro Madero; Justice Minister Haime Lucas Lennon; Health Minister Rodriguez Castells; Planning Secretary Jose Miret; Ambassador Felix Pena, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry's International Economic Relations Department; and Deputy Foreign Minister Battesti; presidential under secretaries; Buenos Aires Mayor Guillermo del Cioppo and other national officials.

On his return trip to this capital, President Bignone held a meeting with his Zairian counterpart S. Mobutu at the Kinshasa International airport. Taking advantage of a technical stopover of more than 90 minutes required by the Argentine Air Force plane transporting the Argentine delegation back to Argentina, the two president held a 40-minute chat at the airport VIP lounge.

Bilateral relations and foreign policy were some of the subjects discussed by Presidents Bignone and Mobutu, who lamented the fact that for personal reasons he had not been able to attend the conference in New Delhi. Mobutu also said that a high-level delegation would travel to Buenos Aires to participate in the meeting of the 77, which will be held between 28 March and 9 April, and to evaluate the possibilities of consolidating relations between the two nations.

The Zairian president was accompanied by his wife, all members of his cabinet, the heads of the different judicial and legislative branches and the Argentine ambassador to Zaire.

After a brief stopover in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the president and his entourage returned to the country. The president had received support for the Argentine position regarding the Malvinas Islands from the presidents who attended the seventh conference of the nonaligned countries.

The hard work carried out by the Argentine delegation in New Delhi was rewarded with the recognition expressed in the political document of the conference, specifically in points 157, 158, 159 and 164 which, state that Argentine sovereignty affects not only the Malvinas Islands, but the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands as well. They also denounce the UK military presence in that region.

General Bignone himself stated in Nairobi, Kenya, during his first stopover on his return to the country, that this was the first time that a summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement had expressely recognized this fact.

LA NACION REVIEWS TRADE WITH SOVIET UNION

PY120022 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Mar 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Argentine-Soviet Trade"]

[Text] The Soviet trade delegations, headed by Deputy Trade Minister Gordeyev, has just ended its visit to our country. The purpose of this visit was to review aspects regarding Argentine-Soviet trade.

Trade with the Soviet Union increased beginning in the 70's when the Soviet kolkhozes, which became the Soviet Union's achille's heel, failed to meet Soviet needs. But in 1980 Argentina became a supplier of great magnitude for the Soviet market due to the U.S. grain embargo.

The Argentine decision to maintain its commercial independence caused an increase in Argentine exports to the Soviet Union merely because that market offered better prices. As a consequence, 35 percent of our overall exports in 1981 were acquired by the Soviet Union. This single buyer purchased 70 percent of Argentina's grain and oilseed exports and 26 percent of its meat exports which, naturally, caused general unrest for commercial as well as political reasons.

Argentina has already suffered the consequences of an excessive concentration of its foreign trade, which at first was channeled to Great Britain, our main partner until after World War II. Later on, in the 60's, our trade was concentrated with the EEC. The volume of Argentine trade with this market amounted up to 40 percent both ways, that is, imports and exports. This phenomenon has a greater impact since the increase in Soviet purchases during the 80's takes place at a time when trade with the EEC has dropped due to the severe restrictions imposed by this market. However, at this time that customer substitution only has commercial importance for our exports, since Argentine purchases of Soviet products are merely on the order of $30 million per year, that is, approximately 1 percent of our purchases abroad. It should also be pointed out that once the United States lifted its grain embargo, the Soviet Union started to diversify its imports again and, as a consequence, our exports were also diversified to the point that our sales to the Soviet Union dropped from 35 percent to 22 percent. Nevertheless the Soviet Union continues to be a very important market, especially for Argentine grains and meat exports, but no longer such an important customer for our overall exports.

There are two main aspects to Argentine-Soviet trade: the economic and political aspects. Regarding the latter, there are always doubts about what the Soviet leadership's interest might be. Nowadays it would be quite unlikely for someone to propose obstructing trade with other markets, with the purpose of a more balanced distribution of our trade, would be reassuring. Therefore, the diversification of trade is encouraging despite the fact that our sales dropped from $2.8 billion during the first 10 months of 1980 to $1.5 billion for the same period in 1982. The objective would be to attain a balanced distribution within the context of foreign trade expansion.

The largest obstacle, economically speaking, is the low degree of competitiveness of Soviet production for technological or commercial reasons. If our country does not increase its purchases from the Soviet Union, it is not because public or private enterprises discriminate against it, but because its products of equipment do not offer the same advantages as those from other countries. Or perhaps because Soviet salesmanship does not compare to that of Europeans, Japanese or Americans. The Soviets seek barter operations without subjecting them to any competition on the basis of price and quality, a condition that certainly guarantees neither the best price nor the best quality. Argentine products sold to the Soviet Union are internationally competitive, and if the trade balance with the Soviet Union tilts in our favor, there are reasons for that. In turn, the Soviet Union continues to purchase large quantities of food from our country because, by doing so, it buys commerical as well as political independence.

In trying to increase purchases from the Soviet Union, greater involvement of the private and public sectors should be sought. If efforts to that end are done in a systematic, intelligent and commercially clever manner, the balance of trade will tend to even up over the long term. No balance will be attained, however, if we continue the practice of barter in acquiring equipment for the public sector, disregarding any consideration of commercial convenience.

HAVANA NOTES PCA OBJECTION TO U.S. AMBASSADOR

PA1513910 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] The Communist Party of Argentina [PCA] has demanded that the government declare Harry Schlaudeman, U.S. ambassador in Buenos Aires, persona non grata for having circulated a communique in Buenos Aires accusing Cuba of interfering in Argentina's domestic affairs.

This clumsy maneuver by the U.S. Embassy, the Argentine Communists said, sought to tarnish Cuba's fraternal and firm solidarity with Argentina's claim to the Malvinas territory.

The party noted that during the conflict in the South Atlantic, the United States placed itself completely on the side of the British and provided them with political and military aid.

At a time when Argentina is receiving the solidarity of the nonaligned countries in New Delhi, the party said, this Yankee provocation should not go unpunished.

TRADE SECRETARY FRAGUIO SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PY141646 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Trade Secretary Alberto Fraguio has announced that he has submitted his resignation to Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe.

Fraguio stated in the note submitted to Wehbe that the reason for his resignation lies in his disagreement with the anti-inflationary policy.

EMBALSE NUCLEAR PLANT BEGINS OPERATION 14 MAR

PY142105 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The Embalse nuclear power generating plant yesterday began operating and is ready to start producing electric power, according to a statement put out yesterday by the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA).

The CNEA indicated in yesterday's statement that at 3:54 pm, the atomic reactor at the power station, located on Rio Tercero in Cordoba Province, entered into what is known in nuclear echnical terminology as its "critical stage," or the point at which "nuclear fission becomes self-sustained." The nuclear authorities explained that the self-sustained chain reaction caused by nuclear fission is what "produces the thermal energy for the generation of electricity."

The CNEA indicated that Embalse would start off producing about five percent of its generating capacity, with the power station being connected to the national power system. Embalse was expected to be operating at full capacity level by July, the CNEA said.

The Cordoba power station has an installed capacity of 600 megawatts of generating power and was built by an Italo-Canadian consortium.

DELEGATE TO ATTEND BRIZOLA'S SWEARING-IN

PY142038 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Ernesto Aranibar Quiroga will represent Bolivian Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora in the ceremony marking the installation of the Rio de Janeiro governor.

The vice president has made this decision in view of the special invitation extended by Dr. Leonel Brizola to attend the assumption of power to be held at Guanabara Palace.

An official communique released this morning states that Paz Zamora will not be able to fulfill this diplomatic commitment due to the current situation in the country.

LA PAZ PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO STAGE PEACEFUL RALLY

PY142035 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Excerpts] La Paz public employees will stage a peaceful march beginning today at 1730 to demand that the legislative branch study, debate and pass a draft bill annuling article 104 of the general labor law.

This report was released by (Mario Viveros), executive secretary of the Union Federation of State Employees who, in a conversation with our reporters, stated that they are also demanding that the appointment of members to the district superior court be reconsidered.

(Viveros) added that his union organization does not intend to undermine the normal development of public administration activities, and gave as an example the decision to hold a peaceful march this afternoon.

PEASANTS TO RESIST COCA ERADICATION PLAN

PY120154 Paris AFP in Spanish 2208 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 10 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported in La Paz today that 12,000 peasant families of the most important Bolivian coca producing area said that they will not permit the eradication of coca cultivation and that the Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA] program aimed at eliminating drug traffic must concentrate its efforts in the international cocaine traffic centers.

During the congress held in Chulumani, 140 km east of the Bolivian capital, a meeting attended by about 600 representatives of union organizations from North Yungas, South Yungas and Inquisivi, a proposal was made for the industrialization of coca for medical use, the elimination of middlemen and that the taxes generated by this trade be used for the benefit of the producing areas.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Chapare area, Cochabamba Department, 400 km east of La Paz, where it is believed that more than 20,000 peasant families produce coca, an area where in the past the town of Zinahota was declared a free market for coca and cocaine by businessmen and peasants of that region.

According to reliable sources, the U.S. Government through the DEA is attempting to put into operation a plan to replace coca as a radical measure to cut drug traffic at its roots, a traffic which, according to the DEA, produces more than $1 billion.

INCREASED BALANCE OF TRADE SURPLUS EXPECTED

PY120141 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Mar 83 p 20

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- The balance of trade surplus reached $175 million in February and $155 million in January. This results in a $330 million accumulated surplus. It also means that if the $6 billion surplus agreed upon with the IMF is to be reached, the average monthly surplus for the rest of the year must be $576 million. The accumulated surplus of the last 12 months is $1 billion.

At lunch at the Planning Secretariat yesterday, Finance Minister Ernane Galveas, Planning Minister Delfim Netto, Central Bank President Carlos Langoni and Banco do Brasil President Oswaldo Colin gave assurances that starting in May -- or at the latest in June -- the balance of trade monthly surplus will range from $500 to $600 million. This will be possible because of market reaction and of the 30 percent maxidevaluation, Aloisio Chaves, PDS [Social Democratic Party] senate leader said.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ernane Galveas is still optimistic. Yesterday, as he reported the balance of trade figures, he gave assurances that the $20 million jump the balance of trade surplus registered in February "was not yet the effect of the maxidevaluation." The minister believes that the results of the maxidevaluation will be seen more clearly starting next April. He noted that "markets are showing signs of improvement."

ADDENDUM TO IMF LETTER OF INTENT REPORTED

PY110147 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 83 p 22

[Addendum to the letter of intent and to the technical memorandum of understanding sent to the IMF by the Brazilian Government]

[Text] Mr Jacques de Larosiere, director of the IMF, 700 19th Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20431.

Dear Mr de Larosiere:

1) On 21 February 1983, Brazil devalued its currency by 23 percent in terms of U.S. dollars per cruzeiro and by 30 percent in terms of cruzeiros per U.S. dollar. At the same time, temporary taxes -- ranging from 10 to 20 percent -- were imposed on exports, particularly on raw materials. A tax on capital gains resulting from the maxidevaluation was also levied. In addition, the National Monetary Council will later establish a timetable for step-by-step enactment of taxes on exports and of reductions in tariffs and in export incentives through tax refunds. For its part, the Brazilian Coffee Institute decided to raise the level of contributions on each bag of coffee to 38 percent.

2) The modification of the exchange rate policy that was described in paragraph 24 of our letter dated 6 January 1983, hereinafter called the "letter," represents to some extent an anticipation of the real devaluation of the cruzeiro, which was scheduled to occur gradually during 1983. This accelerated readjustment rate became necessary not only because of the disappointing results in the balance of trade in January 1983, but also because of the need to make sure that the general objectives of the economic program, particularly those of the external sector, will be attained.

3) While the targets of the policies described in the letter remain unchanged, some performance criteria and some of the goals of the economic program will undergo changes as a result of the above modification in the exchange rate policy. Those changes are described below.

4) We believe that it is necessary to change only the targets regarding inflation rates for 1983, which were described in paragraph 9 of the letter. We expect that, after an initial surge in March 1983, the monthly inflation rate will drop and reach -- in December 1983 -- a level not higher than the one originally estimated. It is expected that the inflation rate will drop to nearly 85-90 percent at the end of 1983 and that the average annual inflation rate will be approximately 100 percent. The estimated inflation rates for 1984 and 1985 have not changed.

5) The recently enacted devaluation will help create jobs and raise production levels based on the increasing competitiveness of Brazilian exports and on the anticipated decline in real interest rates. The full implementation of the salary policy will also contribute to the preservation of jobs.

6) The adjustment effect of the recent devaluation will not be weakened by either direct or indirect subsidies. The price of imported products, particularly oil and wheat, is being readjusted to reflect the higher cost of imports in cruzeiros. That price will be changed later in keeping with the targets outlined in paragraph 12 of the letter.

7) It is difficult to estimate what the net effect of the recent devaluation will be on the financial situation of the private and public sectors. While government revenues will be immediately strengthened through the recently created temporary tax on exports and other special taxes, state-run enterprise spending will rise significantly due to increased financial expenses in cruzeiros resulting from the foreign debt and from foreign currency expenditures for investments. According to updated statistical data, the borrowing needs of the nonfinancial public sector reached 16.9 percent of the GNP [gross national product] in 1982, compared to the estimated 13.8 percent mentioned in paragraph 21 of the letter. Those borrowing needs must drop by 8.1 GNP percentage points to 8.8 percent in 1983. Based on this information, the ceiling of the public sector's cumulative borrowing described in paragraph 2 of the technical memorandum of understanding dated 6 January 1983 (hereinafter called "memorandum") was changed. The new ceilings are: 2.8 trillion cruzeiros, 5 trillion cruzeiros, 6.6 trillion cruzeiros and 8.8 trillion cruzeiros during the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 1983 respectively.

8) The recent change in the exchange policy is bound to lead to a reduction in real interest rates on the free sector of the financial market. In order to strengthen this trend and to restructure the interest rates, the charges on agricultural loans which were established for the first half of 1983 on the basis of the then expected rate of inflation will be increased on the basis of the current expected rate of inflation. This will be done when the National Monetary Council decides, no later than in June this year, on the new structure of interest rates for the second half of this year, in keeping with the provisions of resolution No 782 dated 16 December 1982. The ceilings of the available domestic credit set for the monetary authorities mentioned in paragraph 3 of the memorandum, have been reviewed in the light of the new and higher estimates of the inflation rate and the data available on 31 December 1982. The available domestic credit which on 31 December 1982 amounted to 5,122,000,000,000 cruzeiros will not surpass 6,150,000,000,000 cruzeiros during the 3-month period ending 31 March 1983; nor 6,950,000,000,000 cruzeiros during the 3-month period ending 30 June 1983; nor 7,550,000,000,000 cruzeiros during the 3-month period ending 30 September 1983; nor 8,300,000,000,000 cruzeiros during the 3-month period ending 31 December 1983. In order to figure out the available domestic credit, medium and long-term foreign obligations will be computed as foreign credit available; this regulation changes the methodology described in paragraph 3 and table 3 of the memorandum.

9) As to the foreign sector the objective remains to pursue policies capable of guaranteeing the attainment of the balance of payments targets which have been reestablished and which will permit the liberalization of the trading system and the eradication of the multiple exchange covered by the agreement requested. In view of the changes made in the exchange rate on 21 February 1983, the exchange policy mentioned in paragraph 24 of the letter and in paragraph 5 of the memorandum has been changed. It has been decided to devalue the cruzeiro vis a vis the U.S. dollar through a system of mini-devaluations at monthly rates which will be at least equal to the rate of increase in domestic prices over a quarter of the calendar year. The recent devaluation of the cruzeiro and the exchange policy that has been programmed must help to create the conditions necessary for the reduction and definite termination of export subsidies and taxes on imports. Taking into account the usual delay in the publishing of the appropriate price index, this exchange policy will be implemented in such a way that the percent change in the value of the U.S. dollar in cruzeiros on 15 April 1983 as compared to its value on 28 February 1983, will be at least equal to the percent change in the general price index-domestic supply (IGPDI) for March 1983; the percent change of the U.S. dollar value in cruzeiros on 15 June 1983, as compared to its value on 28 February 1983 will be at least equal to the accumulated percent change of the IGPDI during the 4-month period ending 30 June 1983; the percent change of the U.S. dollar value in cruzeiros on 15 January 1984 as compared to its value on 28 February 1983 will be at least equal to the accumulated percent change of the IGPDI during the 10-month period ending 31 December 1983.

10) Brazil is finding it difficult to obtain adequate foreign financing despite the substantial reduction of its balance of payments requirements. In order to permit swift disbursement of the new $4.4 billion loan recently signed with a consortium of international banks, the ceilings set for the utilization of foreign credit in keeping with paragraph 28 of the letter and further specified in paragraph 4 of the memorandum, have been modified for each quarter during calendar year 1983 but the ceiling for the year will remain the same. The new ceilings amount to $3 billion for the period ending 31 March 1983; to $4.5 billion for the period ending 30 June 1983; to $5.25 billion for the period ending 30 September 1983; and to $6 billion for the period ending 31 December 1983.

Cordially yours,

[signed] Carlos Geraldo Langoni, president of the Brazilian Central Bank

Ernane Galveas, finance minister

NUCLEBRAS LAYS OFF MORE EMPLOYEES, 250 CUT

PY120248 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Mar 83 p 19

[Excerpts] Nuclebras yesterday laid off 250 employees from all levels of its subsidiary Nuclep -- Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc. -- in Itaguai, thus reducing by 25 percent its 1,000 employees. With this new reduction, the number of employees dismissed by the holding [given in English] company of the Brazilian nuclear system now amounts to 353 in less than 2 months. By the end of January 1983, Nuclen -- Nuclebras Engineering, Inc. -- had already dismissed 103 employees, including 42 engineers.

The cuts being carried out by Nuclebras are in keeping with the idea of readjusting the whole Brazilian nuclear program, since the government decided to postpone for 1 year the construction of the nuclear plants two and three of Angra dos Reis, thus extending the conclusion date to 1989/90; postponing "sine die" the initial works of the Sao Paulo plants of Iguape-1 and Iguape-2; and postponing for another year the orders for $100 million made to national industries.

The newest subsidiary, Nucon -- Nuclebras Constructor of Nuclear Plants, Inc. [Nuclebras Construtora de Centrais Nucleares S.A.] -- created 2 years ago, has 400 employees. It was reported yesterday at the plant that current Nuclebras President Dario Gomes intends to eliminate this subsidiary, transferring its functions to the already existing Nuclen, which had been responsible before for the management of the construction of Angra 2 and Angra 3.

Planalto Palace released yesterday in Brasilia a presidential decision to reinstate four Nuclebras directors for another 4-year term. These directors are Gen Jose Pinto Rabelo; Ney Freire de Oliveira Junior, Carlos Tadeu de Freitas Gomes and Ilmar Penna Marinho Junior, whose term will begin on 15 March. It is with General Pinto Rabelo that the president of the Union of Rio de Janeiro Engineers will set a meeting to discuss, according to him, "the arbitrary dismissals."

PMDB DOCUMENT QUESTIONS TRUCE, SEEKS CHANGES

PY142355 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Mar 83 p 2

[Text of document issued by the National Executive Board of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party in Brasilia on 10 March]

[Text] "The government has proposed a truce without disclosing the terms and issues it involves so that the people may become acquainted with them, may examine them and make a decision on the proposal.

"The deep crisis which affects the nation not only demands a convergency of men and purposes but also one of ideas and solutions.

"The Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB) through its program, through documents such as the one entitled 'Hopes and Changes,' at hundreds of symposiums and meetings has offered the country, and subsequently also offered the government, an opportunity to broadly and seriously analyze its problems with the consequent proposal for institutional, economic and social alternatives.

"Among others, the following are the most important issues due to their importance and urgency:

"The need for a national constituent assembly.

"Direct elections at all federative levels, especially for president of the republic.

"Restitution of the prerogatives which have been usurped from the legislative branch.

"A salary policy compatible with the cost of living and distribution of income.

"Autonomy for labor unions and right to strike.

"Protection for those enterprises which promote development and social justice.

"Amendment of the National Security Law so that it will cease to be a tool of repression which oppresses human rights, congressional rights, labor union leaderships, parents, students and journalists.

"Making sure that the Constitution and laws are fully observed is the undeniable duty of the opposition and the PMDB will remain loyal to its tradition of exercising this duty fully, with patriotism and fearlessness.

"The bold patriot Senator Teotonio Vilela, with a moving personal sacrifice, once again is currently touring the country sounding out the peoples' more urgent demands in order to prepare an emergency project which will be carefully analyzed by the PMDB.

"These proposals deserve to be analyzed and are awaiting a decision. The PMDB acknowledges the right to debate and dissent, which are the characteristics of a regime in which freedom of opinion is exercised, that is, in a democracy.

"The Brazilians long for deep changes in the institutional and social field so that Brazil may truly enjoy self-determination, free of foreign intervention, and the citizenry may struggle for their rights, family, salaries and well-being; provided with the tools to make their demands felt to pressure the officials into forming one government through popular vote, to thus oust those who do not respond to the needs or demands of society."

BRIEFS

HEPATITIS OUTBREAK -- Two hundred persons have come down with hepatitis in the city of Bambui, state of Minas Gerais, over a 3-month period. It has not yet been determined whether the virus involved is the "A"or "B" type. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Feb 83 p 8 PY]

ELETROBRAS INDEBTEDNESS -- With the 30-percent devaluation of the cruzeiro, the foreign indebtedness of the state enteprise Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc] has gone up from 2,964,000,000,000 cruzeiros ($7.8 billion) to 3,684,000,000,000 cruzeiros, a 720-billion cruzeiro jump. This year the company will borrow abroad 30 percent of the $680 million it did last year. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Feb 83 p 1 PY]

OIL PRODUCTION REPORTED -- Petrobras has just reported that February oil production amounted to 8,800,003,839 barrels, a 24-percent increase over February 1982. During the first 2 months of this year, production increased by 27 percent over the same period last year, the Campos basin being the most productive area. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 9 Mar 83 PY]

PRESIDENT BETANCUR ADDRESSES NATION 13 MAR

PA150040 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0212 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Address to the nation by Colombian President Belisario Betancur; place not given -- live]

[Text] Good evening, fellow citizens. I am aware that we are experiencing a difficult situation and that many of you are justly concerned about several things, including the underworld's increasing boldness -- even going so far as to break into your homes -- and the general lack of information about your income tax returns, particularly for the thousands upon thousands of people who were previously exempt from this formality.

It is the government's and my unpostponable duty to resolve this situation and we are dedicated to doing so. Security must again be the country's greatest vital sign, for all of my fellow citizens and honest people without exception. Then you will not have to leave, as some have already done; I can understand their anguish. We must be able to live in this dear homeland, full of peace and happiness.

First of all, I would like to give public recognition to the way in which congress is fulfilling its duties, with patriotism and dignity, in the search for ways of overcoming this crisis. The government has tried to solve it in accordance with the Constitution, as all political organizations have admitted, and is seeking to make our nation healthy again. The parliamentarians are doing more than their share of the work, putting aside their natural political differences in order to give the country, as soon as possible, the legislation that it needs to remove any obstacles to our plans for electrification, public works, education, teachers' salaries, health, hospitals, security and [words indistinct] -- in other words, all aspects of our economic emergency decrees, most of which were rejected by the honorable court of justice in a ruling that, though a complete turnaround from the court's 1974 doctrine, the government respectfully observes.

The members of Congress, more than anyone else, have become aware that if the situation is not yet critical it is certainly delicate and requires rapid solutions. I am fully convinced that, after patriotically studying the bills that we will present in the special sessions, the congressmen will give us all, beginning with the government, the necessary means to initiate many fine projects. For example, we would be able to begin revitalizing those departments and municipalities that are dying of poverty. This would constitute an effective defense against centralism and the improper historical trend that all decisions must be made either in Bogota or in the various departmental capitals, for centralism also exists in them -- and how; thus, those of our people who live in towns and villages would no longer live in anguish or come to our cities to try to make a living in the slums.

The important thing is that, based on the agreement with Congress, we will issue clear and strict instructions on how the government will spend the taxpayers' money; to build more schools, create more jobs, produce more food, build more houses and hospitals and offer more security. We have been working in this regard, but we would prefer to have the parliament's full support, oversight, approval and participation. These things appear complicated and mysterious in our everyday conversations, but they are not really. [words indistinct] so as not to make unnecessary expenditures on unforgivable officials receptions; in other words, to ensure that [words indistinct] do not spend the money in any old way. We are correcting this, without unnecessary harshness but with a firm and steady hand. The taxes paid will be appropriately used to solve our many needs, which never seem to end. Often our results are not so visible, but we are working for the Colombians' future and for solutions to their problems.

In this context, we must sacrifice the spectacular and all the quick solutions, working quietly instead on the real long-term needs, even though it takes a little longer to do so. That is why we are inaugurating projects early in the morning, at breakfast time, without fanfare. I am, of course, speaking about our country's structure and foundations, because we are obviously working on other things with the necessary speed, such as housing for the lower and middle classes, health, education, electricity, administrative honesty, work, the creation of jobs -- in other words, the social justice that must prevail in cities and towns against low salaries, poor health services and poor education. The absence of these things produces direct support for the subversives in many rural areas. It is incredible how in many places the minimal salary that is not paid to the workers is spent on vaccines for the livestock instead, though we already know that they don't render the animals immune to disease.

Thus, since we are aware of all of this and know how things should be done, we are upset by those who want to stir up trouble and to spread rumors of a possible large-scale devaluation. They make use of the fact that the private banks [words indistinct] and a spirit of cooperation does not always prevail. The private banks refuse to lower their interest rates. In this context, I tell my fellow citizens that we will continue to seek an agreement on these rates, with the understanding that if we don't reach such an agreement we will use all of the other means provided by the Constitution and the law to lower this interest. In any case, let me tell you, my friends: Your president is telling you that there will be no such devaluation, simply because it is not necessary. We have other methods that have been applied efficiently and effectively. There will be no such devaluation, so don't let yourselves be manipulated. I repeat, we are working on this.

We are also working intensively to increase the people's security. We are aware that there is reason for alarm at the wave of extortions, kidnappings, homicides, robberies, attacks and subversion. Since I don't like to learn of your problems indirectly, on Friday -- 2 days ago, between 0600 and that night -- I travelled with ministers, the military high command and other officials to Cali, Medellin and Monteria to receive a direct report about public order and the personal security of the people in these areas. Of course, alarm prevails and it is justifiable. However, we are establishing a system by which all criminals, from any sector and whether covert or open, will lose the initiative.

The last time I spoke to you on television I announced what we would do. Very well, we are doing it. I don't know how many of you realize that we recently approved the first 12,626,000,000 pesos of the more than 30 billion pesos intended to modernize the police, the Armed Forces and security forces with helicopters, laboratories, vehicles, more personnel and powerful communications systems. They are in charge of fighting and crushing crime. This equipment has begun to arrive and will help us to overcome the criminals. From now on, it will be we and not the criminals making the headlines. Soon, at any moment, we will show you over this same television some of what we have already achieved, so you can see that we are not guilty of false promises. We are defending society and will present strong initiatives to Congress against kidnapping and terrorism, with the assurance that Congress will approve them, to harshly combat all of the different kinds of crime that [words indistinct]. These laws and their effective enforcement will demand a greater price from the criminals. From now on, the law will have the teeth and the punch that it previously lacked.

Henceforth, he who chooses to indulge in crime will know that he must pay dearly. We ask you to show all of your courage, all of your faith and your support for the authorities, because you will have total, complete and permanent support from those authorities.

We know that the government does not have the right to demand solidarity when it shows itself to be weak and unable to provide the most elementary protection. However, that is changing and I am asking that we rally around the military forces, the police, the judges, the security forces, so that they may vigorously fulfill their mission. It is the criminals' turn to be cornered. Let us all rise up against them. Let us organize ourselves into civil police corps, in agreement with the authorities. All together, we are more powerful than the gangsters, because we have the strength of decency, of clear consciences, of morality and of the law.

I am not going to deprive you of more of your Sunday rest today. I just wish to leave you with this: To those who with fear, if not with a certain amount of pleasure, are talking of a military coup, I will set you straight. Don't get your hopes up. There will be no coup d'etat. The Colombian Armed Forces respect our institutions and our Constitution more than anyone else and with their patriotic and professional actions they are consolidating the democracy that makes us admired and respected by the rest of the world. We are all united, as is shown by the serenity of the Congress and by the patriotic support given the president of the republic by former presidents Alberto Lleras, Carlos Lleras, Pastrana and Lopez Michelsen -- each for his own reasons, but all thinking always of the homeland and of our progress, of the strength of our independence.

Yes, we are united, we are firm, we are strong; that is, we are better off, despite the difficulties. The government is fully aware of this great opportunity, to which is added the fact that, by virtue of our entry, by unanimous agreement, into the Nonaligned Movement, Colombia is now more independent and more sovereign. Colombia now has more friends in the world, in the international forums. It has more friends, with all that this implies.

In closing, forgive me for repeating now what I said some days ago, last Friday, in Medellin. As head of state and of the Armed Forces, I order -- pay close attention -- I order all who are responsible for peace, who are responsible for security and order, all the authorities, the Armed Forces, the police, the security forces, to apply all of their zeal, all of their dedication, all of their ability, all of their efforts to prevent any action that tends to disrupt public order and to repress any act of violence that endangers the lives, the personal safety, the dignity, the property, the freedom or any other right of the members of society. You may be fully assured, my compatriots, that the government is with you and that the horrible rash of crime that threatens our lives, dignity and estates, that seeks to undermine our faith, will end, because all together we will defeat its sinister purposes, for the aggrandizement of our homeland and ourselves.

We remain with it. We remain with Colombia, the beautiful fatherland that God gave us for ourselves and for our children. We remain with it and in it, because we love it. We will defend it, because we love it and because it loves all its children. Good evening.

BRIEFS

FINANCIAL DEFICIT -- A report issued by the office of the comptroller general states that the nation's financial deficit, without taking into account the funds of the special exchange account, totalled 106,773,200,000 pesos. The report was issued to corroborate statements to this effect made by the president and the finance minister. [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 1 PA]

AMBASSADORIAL RESIGNATION -- President Belisario Betancur has accepted the resignation of Carlos Sanz de Santamaria as Colombian ambassador to the United Nations. [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Feb 83 p 12-A PA]

ECONOMY MINISTER OPPOSES REFINANCING DEBT

PY120007 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor yesterday said that he strongly opposes the possibility of refinancing the foreign debt. He pointed out that national recovery and the stability of the country will only be achieved with the economic program prepared by his ministry, a program he described as severe, strict and financially disciplined.

He said that if the reduction of 1 trillion soles in public expenditures is maintained and short-term resources from the IMF and long-range credits from the World Bank are obtained -- based on the economic program -- then conditions will prevail for making proposals to the international banking community.

He said: "We will be able to say: We have already made this much effort. The international organizations agree with our efforts, they consider them reasonable and they give us the possibility of generating our own resources for future years."

Rodriguez Pastor said that the goal is to ask creditors to maintain short-term credits worth $2 billion, have banks grant new credits up to $450 million -- an amount equal to the payments for 1983 -- plus an additional credit to cover the deficit in the balance of payments.

The economy minister explained that the $2 billion credit is aimed at continuing the financial support to commercial operations, imports, and exports and at insuring that operating capital for enterprises which operate with foreign currency will be fluid and sufficient.

He added that this credit is a basic element of the financial equilibrium which the country needs and that if this is cut off, the international reserves and the volume of imports would decrease thus paralyzing the economy with the adverse consequences.

He said that the additional credit to cover the deficit of the balance of payment is aimed at preventing a reduction in exports, in the economic activities of the country and in the international reserves, activities which are essential for maintaining a certain rhythm of economic activity.

He said that international reserves have come down to such levels that it would not be appropriate to allow them to drop below this level. Therefore, he said, Peru does not need to request the refinancing of its foreign debt because it is in a position to fulfill the schedule of payments and because refinancing is inadequate for solving our problems.

With regard to the inflationary spiral, the minister said that at no time did he have the intention of deceiving the country, therefore, he cannot say that inflation is going to come down to zero. However, what his ministry is trying to do is to prevent the inflationary tendency from increasing and to make efforts to lower it year by year.

He disclosed that the program to be implemented by his administration establishes, as the main objective, the basis for making the national recovery and the dynamic growth of the economy and the reduction of inflationary tendencies possible. Rodriguez pastor said that the entire program is aimed at slowing down price increases, expanding employment, protecting employment, protecting the helpless and making the country financially solvent.

In conclusion he said that the 1983 inflation will depend on the success of the reorganization plan and the policy of moderation of the government in agreement with management and labor.

NOVOSTI OFFICIAL VISITS EL OBSERVADOR 22 FEB

PY120156 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 16

[Text] Soviet journalist Yuriy Aleksandrov, NOVOSTI Press Agency deputy director for Latin America, yesterday made a visit to EL OBSERVADOR'S editorial staff. He was very impressed by the modern equipment and the work environment of our newspaper. Aleksandrov talked briefly with Director Pablo Ruel, Chief Editor Jaime Marroquin, and the president of the Cooperative Administrative Council, Victor Tirado.

The Soviet journalist pointed out the great prestige attained by EL OBSERVADOR in his country and other European nations among specialists in Latin American problems. He said that the pluralist political nature of the newspaper, the seriousness and soundness of its economic position as well as its cooperative organization are remarkable.

Aleksandrov, who was in Lima only a few hours as part of a brief tour of several Latin American countries, wished our newspaper success and offered the broadest cooperation of the press agency he represents.

BELAUNDE TERRY ACCEPTS HURTADO INITIATIVE

PA120155 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Text] Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has responded positively and has promised to cooperate in implementing President Oswaldo Hurtado's proposal to form a bloc of Latin American countries to face up to the present economic crisis. The official reply was transmitted this morning through Peruvian Ambassador Felipe Valdivieso, who gave president Hurtado a letter in which Belaunde Terry expresses his support and positive response to the 16 February proposal. Approached by newsmen, the Peruvian diplomat said that President Belaunde Terry shares the concern and the viewpoints of his Ecuadorean counterpart and has expressed his willingness to cooperate with President Hurtado in implementing this plan of action. The Peruvian diplomatic representative also said that the reactivation of the (Cuyango-Tumbo) projects in the two countries' border area will be an important step in the improvement of bilateral relations.

ENVOY RULES OUT MARKING BORDER WITH ECUADOR

PY112344 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] The Peruvian ambassador to Ecuador has affirmed that our country will not plant markers along our border with Ecuador unilaterally. Ambassador Felipe Valdivieso flatly denied that our country will unilaterally plant border markers along the as yet undelineated border between the two countries. In an interview published yesterday, Valdivieso explained that Peru alone cannot now or ever plant border markers, because this should be done by a joint border commission which was set up under provisions of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol. That commission functioned until 1958, said the ambassador.

FOUR MEMBERS OF BANNED COMMUNIST PARTY ARRESTED

PY120231 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Mar (AFP) -- The arrest and processing by Uruguayan military justice authorities of a subversive wanted by the law for having belonged to the armed branch of the proscribed Communist Party was announced in an official communique in Montevideo this afternoon. According to the communique, Rodolfo Artigas Anselmi, 33 years of age, was arrested in a routine procedure. As a result of this operation three other communists were also arrested. They are Wilson Gutierrez, 33; Walter Iglesias, 30; and industrialist Violeta Ramos, 47, who gave Anselmi protection, knowing he was wanted.

The communique says that Rodolfo Anselmi began his illegal activities in 1970 with other communists currently processed or our of the country and that Anselmi participated with the others in political talks and orientation, firing practices, hikes and training in accordance with their mission.

The communique also reported that the group had in their possession 38 and 22 caliber revolvers, a 22 caliber rifle and a 16 guage shotgun. Military justice authorities ordered Anselmi's processing and preventive custody on charges of subversive association and violation of the Constitution for carrying out conspiracy. The other three were charged with being accessories. The Communist and the Socialist Parties and other leftist groups were proscribed in Uruguay in 1973.

OPPOSITION CDU POLITICIAN INTERVIEWED IN ROME

PY120219 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Rome, 10 Mar (AFP) -- Juan Ferreira, the president of the Uruguayan Democratic Convergence coalition party (CDU) has said that the party's immediate plans are to expand the mobilization process throughout the country. Ferreira, who arrived in Rome on Wednesday to attend the inauguration of the first Uruguayan Information Agency (Pressur), of which he is president, said that the Uruguayan military government is weak because it lacks a political program based on a consensus.

Ferreira said that the CDU, which was established in 1980 as a result of an initiative by exiled politicians from several parties, strives to gain support against the dictatorship.

Juan Ferreira, 30 years old, is the son of the most important leader of Uruguay's traditional Blanco Party, Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, who has been living in exile in London since 1973.

Regarding the length of time that the Democratic Convergence project might last, Ferreira said that the objective is to achieve a programmatic agreement that would extend beyond the elections. Uruguay has two traditional political parties, the Blanco and the Colorado Parties, and for the last decade there has been a broad front (?made up) of the Communist, Socialist and Christian Democratic Parties. According to Ferreira, the project of national unity that is upheld by the CDU strives to achieve a participatory democracy.

Juan Ferreira, who has been living in Washington since 1973, also said that all Uruguayan political parties have experienced a process of change brought about by the change in generations and that Uruguay's political vanguard is made up of young people between 21 and 35 years of age.

Ferreira noted that the Uruguayan military government has only two possibilities: to stay in power through an increase in repression tactics, or to hold elections. Our objective is to accelerate the election process that they promised for 1984.

He added that the future democratic government must carry out profound economic reforms. He noted: The military government has destroyed my country's economy and this has mainly benefited the financial sector and undermined the productive sectors.

Regarding economic reforms, Ferreira said that the CDU will promote a more centralized economy, an agrarian reform program, the nationalization of the banking sector and foreign trade.

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS 25 PERCENT DROP IN RESERVES

PY130012 Paris AFP in Spanish 2040 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Central Bank spokesmen disclosed in Montevideo that the international reserves of the Uruguayan Central Bank were reduced by 25 percent in comparison with December of last year because of a loss of $51 million during the first month of 1983.

According to the spokesmen, the reduction from $202.5 million to $151.6 million was caused by the latest repercussions of the black fiscal situation created in 1982.

PRESIDENT CITES NEW OPEC OIL PRICE, QUOTA

PA142336 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Luis Manuel Escalante report]

[Text] It was definitely agreed at the OPEC meeting in London to assign a production quota of 1.7 million barrels a day to Venezuela. This information was confirmed by President Luis Herrera Campins upon his arrival at the airport in Barcelona. The president is in Barcelona, eastern Venezuela, to inaugurate the third national workshop on maintenance. Questioned on Venezuela's participation in oil production within the OPEC framework, Herrera replied as follows:

[Begin Herrera recording] Well, the OPEC meeting established a price of $29 and we will have a production quota of 1.7 million barrels a day. [passage indistinct] (?previously), as the press reports, (?we had contacted) the political parties, starting with the government's Social Christian Party, and with Democratic Action, along with the presidential candidates, oil experts, the directors of Venezuelan petroleum and the operating companies, because I wanted to consult them before making the formal decision to accept the quota assigned us. There was a general decision to accept it, for two reasons. First, to keep OPEC united; second, we don't wish to (?live) with the uncertainty of what could happen if no agreement were reached by the organization, which could lead to a price war and to subsequent [words indistinct]. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER DENIES BANKRUPTCY -- The newspaper EL ZULIANO has denied in an editorial report that it is bankrupt and up for sale. We expect to increase issues to 72 pages and expand publication to 30,000 issues daily, it reports. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Mar 83 PA]

BELGIAN OFFICER'S VISIT -- Belgian Gendarmerie Colonel (Van Hekee Havel) arrived yesterday in Maracaibo on an invitation from the Venezuelan National Guard and Armed Forces Regional Command. He visited the military garrison of Zulia state and said that Venezuela's customs and territorial control experience can be applied in Belgium. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Mar 83 PA]

EPISCOPATE PROTEST -- The Venezuelan Episcopate has charged in a communique that a so-called Church of East Caracas [Iglesia en Caracas Este] has violated the rights of the Catholic Church and gravely offended the Venezuelan people. The Church of East Caracas has lately mailed propaganda to bishops, priests and nuns in an attitude of provocation, it charged. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Mar 83 PA]

PEMEX DECREASES OIL PRICES IN LINE WITH OPEC

PA150155 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0133 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Mexico, the world's fourth largest oil producer, announced today that it will decrease the price of its oil by $2 to $3.50 per barrel, according to a communique issued by the presidency.

After the agreement reached today by the 13 members of OPEC to decrease their oil price from $34 to $29 per barrel, Pemex, the Mexican state oil monopoly, said that the price of Isthmus crude will be decreased from $32.50 to $29 per barrel and that the price of Maya heavy oil will drop from $25 to $23 per barrel.

NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER URGED

PA101556 Mexico City Voz de la America Latina in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Text] At the Seventh Summit of the Nonaligned Movement being held in India, Mexico stressed the need to respect the self-determination and sovereignty of the states and to create a new international economic order. A Mexican Foreign Secretariat press communique reported this yesterday, noting that the Mexican position upholds the need to apply the principles of nonintervention and the peaceful settling of conflicts between nations, and supports national liberation movements.

In this crisis, the document adds, the developing countries have been the most affected. Therefore, Mexico supports the search for measures to stimulate broad negotiations with the industrialized states.

SEPULVEDA STOPS OVER IN SPAIN ON SUMMIT RETURN

FL142333 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1248 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Madrid, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor today began here an official 48-hour visit to Spain, during which he will hold talks with President Felipe Gonzalez. Sepulveda Amor will also meet with Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and Culture Minister Javier Solana.

The Mexican foreign secretary, who arrived in this capital from New Delhi after attending the nonaligned countries summit, will depart tomorrow for Mexico.

SOCIALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY

PA122122 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] (Jaime Trejos), spokesman for the United Socialist Party of Mexico, has said that the U.S. Government is incapable of understanding the Mexican people's authentic social and economic problems or those of the rest of Latin America. (Trejos) denounced the U.S. interventionist attitude in the subcontinent and described the U.S. Government's position of wanting to assume the right of making decisions for the independent and sovereign states of Latin America as unacceptable.

NAVY SECRETARY REPORTS ON NAVY CAPABILITY

PA140006 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Feb 83 pp 5A, 20A

[By Jaime Contreras]

[Excerpt] Navy Secretary Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega has stated that in order to have an efficient watch over Mexico's exclusive economic zone, the country needs to increase its fleet by 50 percent. The fleet would then total 100 units. He admitted that the Navy's current ships are old and therefore inefficient. He said, however, that "there is no reason why Mexico has to watch the entire area."

The Navy secretary said during a news conference that no country in the world has a 100-percent efficient watch against piracy in its waters because "regardless of how big a navy is, there is always the possibility of someone getting through." In Mexico's case, "we have been siezing ships that have violated our waters and we have been penalizing them accordingly." The Navy secretary denied there is any U.S. political or diplomatic pressure because of this.

He told EXCELSIOR that "we already have a plan, which I cannot reveal at this moment," to fight sacking on our seas.

During the news conference, the admiral admitted that the Navy must be restructured "according to the country's needs." He said that he advocated establishing more naval zones because Mexico's economic growth "makes the establishment of additional watch zones, especially in oil producing areas, a must."

Gomez Ortega admitted that the country's 31 Azteca class patrol boats do not operate in the exculsive economic zone "because they were built to patrol the territorial waters (12 miles.) Other ships -- coastguard cutters, mine sweepers and transport ships -- can patrol that zone.

The Navy secretary said that the Navy knows precisely where fishing takes place "and with 50 percent more units (the Navy has 65 ships), Mexico could cover the entire exclusive economic zone." Gomez Ortega added that Mexico has 14 patrol planes for that purpose.

The admiral denied that there is any problem along the sea borders with Guatemala, Belize or the United States, or that Mexico has rented the Coronado Islands to the United States.

CORPORATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH COSTA RICA

PA140328 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1407 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Panama City, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The governments of Costa Rica and Panama have agreed to appoint a joint commission to study the formation of a binational corporation in the near future for the development of the border area. It was learned here that Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella and Costa Rican Vice President Alberto Fait made this decision at a meeting this weekend in David, Chiriqui Province, in western Panama near the Costa Rican border. The two officials signed the agreement on the occasion of the David International Fair.

Panama will be represented on the binational commission by delegates from the commerce and industries, agricultural development and planning and economic policy ministries. This working group's decisions will be aimed at deriving benefits from products such as sugar cane, coffee, rice and a market for beef.

COLUMNIST OPPOSES TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS

PA141617 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 8-A

[From the "Moyolandia" column by Harmodio Icaza]

[Text] Authorized Pentagon sources disclosed last week the intention to send Salvadoran troops here to be trained at Fort Sherman. Apart from its audacity, the announcement is extremely dangerous because of its enormous projections and consequences. And let me say this: I do not have any sympathy for the communist guerrillas of El Salvador.

In the first place, the United States has no right to send troops here that are not its own without the Panamanian covernment's prior consent through the Joint Defense Committee. This is not President Reagan's ranch, and the announcement itself is an affront to our sovereignty.

The political implications of such an action would disqualify Panama from any possible role as neutral country that could someday mediate in talks to restore peace in that country. The presence of Salvadoran troops in our territory would compromise our position as a neutral country.

A review of the treaties fully confirms that the United States cannot promote such an idea because it would be violating the treaties. The training being given at the School of the Americas is one thing; the training of troops that are engaged in a domestic conflict in El Salvador in quite another. Panama should waste no time in letting the United States know that we categorically reject such a wild idea.

EDITORIAL CASTS DOUBTS ON PAREDES' INTENTIONS

PA131624 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 1

[Editorial: "National Unity or National Submission?"]

[Text] The National Guard commander has just discovered, as if had been out of the country for 14 years, what all the Panamanian people have always known: The country is burdened by urgent problems that require everybody's cooperation to be solved; the wording and interpretation of Article 2 of the Constitution -- which has been used as a pretext to subordinate the branches of the state to the whims of the public force -- are disgusting to the civilized world; it is necessary to eliminate the Assembly of Representatives; the country requires a directly-elected legislative branch with broad authority to supervise and control the public administration and a complete institutional reorganization.

So far there is nothing to object to in the statement by General Paredes. These positions have been repeatedly present by the opposition parties and by many independent citizens. However, behind each apparent acknowledging of errors by the autocracy there is, as always, much reticence, leading words and veiled allusions, which interpreted in the light of lessons taught by events too recent to be forgotten, indicate that behind the national unity proposal there are intentions and objectives that have nothing to do with the statement's apparently conciliatory tone.

After 14 years of military autocracy, of political exaltation of the Armed Forces and of the National Guard's continued intervention in all public affairs, no one can believe General Paredes when he affirms that they are military and not militarists. If any doubt remains among the naive, General Parades quickly dispels it when he refers to Article 2 of the Constitution: "We believe that the civilization, today's world does not accept a constitution with the armed forces inserted in this ostentatious manner....We believe that the term the Armed Forces in coordination with the other three branches of the state must disappear."

In short, it is an attempt to eliminate the terms, change the form, dissimulate the ostentatious, so that the reality of the military imposition on the government structures can be disguised in an acceptable and civilized way. These scruples demonstrate some ethical progress, but that is not what the country needs. What the country's development and tranquillity require is an authentically democratic institutional structure, in which all the authorities -- civilian and military -- will keep their actions within the law. It is to no avail to eliminate the terms of the current Article 2, if the incumbent and successive National Guard commanders feel they have the right to whimsically usurp the functions of the president of the republic, give orders to the state ministers, meddle in the judiciary branch, interfere with the Government Ministry, impose treaties and disrupt foreign relations.

In such circumstances, the "suggestion" of a government of "broad national unity," would respond more to the necessity to renovate appearance -- changes that change nothing -- than to make the profound transformation which the republic's harmony and progress demand. The opposition cannot share the government's responsibilities if the National Guard continues reserving the exercise of power into itself. If the current president has been offended, humiliated and disavowed by those who imposed him in power, it is only natural to presume that a cabinet with opposition representatives would suffer the same fate, becoming the new civilian servants of the military aristocracy. National unity is not national submission. It is the product of a consensus that does not permit impositions or forceful acts.

Only when the National Guard assumes the public and irreversible commitment to definitively renounce any interference in government affairs, subordinating its actions to the state organizations, will it be possible for a government of national unity with the participation of all political forces to ensure the peaceful and orderly transition from dictatorship to democracy. Without that commitment, an opposition governed for and by the garrisons, would cease to exist....

BRIEFS

SAN BLAS INTENDANT -- The Government and Justice Ministry, which is headed by Justo Fidel Palacios, has appointed Indaura Lopez de Iglesias acting intendant of the San Blas Territory. She is the first Kuna woman to occupy such a post. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 10 Mar 83 PA]

COSTA RICA

VOLIO CITES 'DICTATORSHIP' THREAT TO NICARAGUA

PM141451 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 9 Mar 83 p 9

[Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio interview with Gunnar Selgard: "Dictatorship Threatens Nicaragua" -- date not given]

[Text] San Jose -- When Costa Rican Social Democratic President Luis Alberto Monge visits Oslo in June to take part in an international trade union congress, representatives of the Norwegian labor movement (and probably of the government too) will have an opportunity to hear a more subtle exposition of the explosive political situation in Central America, with special emphasis on Nicaragua and El Salvador, than the one prevalent among Scandinavian Social Democrats in recent months.

In an interview with AFTENPOSTEN, Foreign Minister Fernando Volio, who will accompany Monge on his visit to Norway and who has been a Social Democratic deputy in his country's national assembly for several terms, did not attempt to conceal the fact that he is disappointed with the attitude of many European socialist parties to what is happening in Central America today. Many European socialists, especially those in the Scandinavian countries, have an uncritical and naive attitude toward what is happening in Nicaragua. It is growing clearer day by day that Nicaragua is acquiring a Marxist-Leninist regime, he said.

Nevertheless, Volio said that he had noted a certain softening of attitudes recently. Growing numbers of people seem to realize that the possibility of political pluralism in Nicaragua is shrinking day by day. Volio said that he has information that several important members of the Socialist International are in the process of reassessing their attitude. For there is still a possibility that political pluralism could be created in Nicaragua.

[Question] To which Socialist International leaders are you referring?

[Answer] I am thinking primarily of Spain's Felipe Gonzales, Portugal's Mario Soares and Venezuela's Carlo Perez, who have all shown some concern over developments in Nicaragua. There is every indication that Latin socialists are more sensitive than others to what is happening in Central America.

Here Volio gave a special mention to Soares, who has himself had to fight to counter a trend toward totalitarianism after the removal of an extremist rightwing dictatorship.

[Question] But what can European socialists do to influence the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua?

[Answer] They should not beat about the bush and should express their disappointment at important aspects of developments in the country. They should make it clear that they will not support the present government if it does not follow up its promises of real pluralist democracy with guarantees for all elementary human rights.

Volio said that it was natural for Costa Rica to support the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua. The country had problems with the Somoza regime in the north for many years. Costa Rica was the natural place of exile for opposition Nicaraguans and it was from there that much of the Sandinist revolution was directed.

"But since the revolution, there have been developments in Nicaragua which worry our people a great deal," Volio said. "They are building up a system of military defenses far exceeding their own needs, and as everyone knows we have no military defenses at all. This is written into our Constitution.

"We have had a series of flagrant border violations in the north where Nicaraguan soldiers have carried out several raids into our territory. In some places we have been forced to close schools and evacuate farms."

Volio also said that last summer a plot was uncovered in the Costa Rican capital, San Jose, in which the Nicaraguan Government was implicated and which aimed to foment subversive activities through terrorist actions and illegal strikes. The offices of the Honduran Airline Company in San Jose were bombed and the Costa Rican Government felt itself obliged to expel three Nicaraguan diplomats who had been involved in the action. Recently the Nicaraguans have also committed repeated violations of the right to free navigation of the San Juan River, which forms a common border between the two countries. This right was established in a treaty which dates from 1857.

Volio is also concerned about developments in El Salvador. He interprets the high turnout in last year's elections as an indication that the Salvadorans want peace and not civil war. He also thinks that the election was conducted fairly well. There are many reports from reliable sources which confirm this, he said.

[Question] But surely fear drove many Salvadorans to the ballot box, fear of what could happen if they did not register as voters?

[Answer] No, I would say that the reverse was the case. Those who turned up at the polling stations were the ones who showed courage and took a risk, and they did so because they wanted an end to the civil war. The least risky course of action would have been to remain completely passive. Unfortunately, this is true of the many Latin American countries.

EL SALVADOR

REBELS CUT POWER TO CAPITAL, FOUR DEPARTMENTS

PA142102 Paris AFP in Spanish 1746 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Mar (AFP) -- The Salvadoran capital and the country's four eastern departments woke this morning to a power outage as a result of guerrilla sabotage of power lines.

First there was a blackout in the capital last night for about an hour. Then, at 0321 on Monday, another act of sabotage produced a second blackout that affected most of the capital, as well as the Departments of Usulutan, San Miguel, La Union and Morazan.

The Electric Power Company of San Salvador (CAESS) has slowly been resuming service to various sectors of the city, using emergency powerplants that operate with diesel. However, the situation deteriorated when industries and businesses opened in the morning, as there was not enough power to satisfy the demand.

By midmorning, large sectors of the capital, especially in the downtown area, were still without electricity. A CAESS spokesman has explained that the critical situation is the result of the guerrillas' destruction of several high tension towers in the area between the 5 November dam and San Rafael Cedros, in the northern part of the country.

According to unofficial sources, the rebels dynamited four towers that supported primary cables feeding most of the capital and the entire eastern region.

Electricity is practically being rationed now in San Salvador and the gravity of the damage leads to the fear that the situation will last for several hours. The lack of electricity in the capital has produced huge traffic jams, because the signal lights are not operating. This has forced many drivers to take different routes.

It has been reported that the sabotage also prevented a connection with the new San Lorenzo hydroelectric dam, located between San Vicente and Usulutan Departments, near the Cuscatlan bridge, which would have provided power to the country's eastern region.

The FMLN has also attacked the transportation sector. In the last few hours it has dynamited several vehicles on various roads. This sabotage campaign was announced by the FMLN last week, a few hours before the visit of Pope John Paul II.

ARMY CONTINUES MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MORAZAN

PA120357 San Salvador EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] Military sources have reported that some 300,000 inhabitants in Chalatenango Department were without electricity today because the leftist rebels blew up several posts at dawn. The guerrillas also attacked the outskirts of Suchitito for 5 hours; that city is some 45 km north of San Salvador. The sources did not give information about casualties on either side.

The insurgents laid siege to Suchitoto for almost 15 days in February. During the last days of that month, the army launched a military operation there and destroyed 8 guerrilla camps. A military source from Morazan reported that in the northern sector of that department the army continues the military operations that were started 8 days ago, and now controls all the towns up to the Torola River, 20 km north of San Francisco Gotera.

The sources said that in the clashes during these last days, there was a death toll of 100 guerrillas and 5 soldiers. A sergeant has calculated that 5,000 soldiers are participating in the antiguerrilla operation in Morazan.

CHAVEZ MENA CANCELS TRIP TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PA150307 Paris AFP in Spanish 2313 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 14 Mar -- At the last minute, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena suspended his trip to the Dominican Republic, which was scheduled for today, Dominican Foreign Minister Jose Augusto Vega announced here today.

Vega told newsmen that the Salvadoran Embassy in Santo Domingo officially explained that the minister cannot come because of "unforeseen reasons." He did not specify any new date for the visit.

The cancellation of Chavez Mena's visit has been interpreted here as an indication that the efforts to achieve an eventual meeting of Central American leaders in Santo Domingo, to agree on a process for achieving peace in that convulsed region, have failed.

The initiative for the meeting came from Chavez Mena himself and from his Costa Rican and Honduran colleagues, Fernando Volio and Edgardo Paz Barnica. It was also to be attended by the foreign ministers of Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, Colombia and the host country, according to reports from Central America.

The Dominican Foreign Ministry has for the past several weeks reiterated its offer to host the meeting in Santo Domingo, in line with the expressed wish "to arrive at a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis." However, Foreign Minister Vega said today that his government believes that a meeting of this type "makes sense only" if "all countries involved in the crisis" participate.

Vega also reported today that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado will soon visit Santo Domingo separately, in response to separate invitations.

He also noted that he will meet with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica during "a private visit" to Santo Domingo by Paz Barnica on 28 March. According to official Dominican Republic sources, all of these high-level diplomatic meetings will involve priority discussions of the search for a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis.

25 SOLDIERS IN COURTS ON RIGHTS CHARGES

PA141930 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The Defense Ministry, fulfilling General Jose Guillermo Garcia's promise to send to common courts any armed forces element involved in human rights violations, has put 25 military men involved in such violations at the disposal of courts, according to official reports. In the past 15 days alone, more than 25 soldiers have been sent to the courts on charges of human rights violations or other criminal activities.

According to reports, among the men to face trial are a sergeant and two soldiers from the Gotera detachment, charged with the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Cline, two corporals from the Atlacatl Battalion, charged with kidnapping and killing a businessman who had his shop in the (Cuardel) market; civil defense elements and soldiers from the San Vicente detachment, charged with violating a minor in San Felipe village.

According to official reports, no less than 25 other military elements involved in criminal activities outside the San Salvador area are also facing courts.

RED CROSS FINDS MISSING SWEDISH NEWSMEN

PA142020 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Excerpt] According to reports, yesterday at noon the International Red Cross found the Swedish newsmen who had been missing in El Salvador for almost a month. The newsmen are Tom Thulin and Jens Rydstrom. According to reports, International Red Cross workers found the two somewhere in the country. They are now at the Armed Forces Staff Headquarters. It is expected that they will leave the country this afternoon.

It was previously reported that the two freelance Swedish newsmen disappeared on 15 February in the Guazapa hill area. They were accompanied by Michael Luhan, a U.S. journalist who returned some 2 weeks ago and then left the country.

It has been reported that the two Swedish newsmen were held captive by the guerrillas in the country's northern region, but no place has been specified. It has also been said that the two will leave for Guatemala City this afternoon.

Charge d'Affaires (Alvaro Sagrera), [no country specified] said that fortunately the two newsmen are in good health; they have had no problems and are expected to leave the country soon.

THREE SOLDIERS HELD IN DEATH OF U.S. CITIZEN

PA111856 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1826 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Three Salvadoran soldiers were arrested on an unspecified date for being implicated in the death of U.S. citizen Michael Cline, who was shot last October in the eastern department of Morazan. Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia reported at a press conference today that the three military men will be remanded to the judicial authorities.

General Garcia did not reveal the identity of the militarymen, the date of their arrest or the extent of their involvement in the death of the U.S. citizen. According to the official report initially released by the armed forces, Michael Cline was killed after he was detained by a military patrol and he grabbed a weapon from a soldier and tried to escape.

The army also said that Cline collaborated with the guerrilas, and he was presented to the press as a "mercenary." The only things found on him were three travelers checks, a knapsack, a sleeping bag and a can of grease. The autopsy performed on the body of Michael Cline showed that he received two bullet wounds at short range in the back and in the head.

COURT TRIAL FOR U.S. CITIZENS' MURDER DELAYED

PA120507 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 41

[Text] The reconstruction of the murder of Jose Rodolfo Viera and of Michael Peter Hammer and Mark David Pearlman, two U.S. citizens, has been invalidated. The triple murder took place at midnight on 3 January 1981 in a San Salvador hotel.

According to trial sources, annullment was declared because the two experts appointed for the reconstruction of the crime were not legally sworn-in. One of the experts had been appointed to take photographs and the other to take measurements at the site of the crime.

Former guards Jose Dimas Valle Acevedo and Santiago Gomez Gonzalez are under arrest in connection with the triple murder case. The two have confessed, in and out of court, that they committed the crime.

When the reconstruction took place, the two prisoners openly spoke about how the action was carried out. They pointed out some of the spots in which they took positions and referred to other persons by name. The sources said that the reconstruction will be annulled and a new reconstruction will have to be performed.

The sources said the nullification may possibly be announced in the next few days, perhaps along with the date for the new reconstruction.

BUSINESS GROUP OPPOSES ELECTION IN DECEMBER

PA130231 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 32

[Communique issued by the Association of Salvadoran Businessmen and Industrialists in San Salvador on 11 March 1983]

[Text] Our association, which represents the interests of thousands of small businessmen and industrialists throughout the national territory, notes with concern the fact that our country is being geared to a partisan political campaign that would conclude with presidential elections at the end of the year.

This news was publicly announced by President Magana last Sunday on the occasion of the visit of Holy Pope John Paul II. This news has created much concern among us because December is a month of much commercial activity and there is a large circulation of money, which lets small businessmen recover what they have lost.

Right now, the Salvadoran productive sector is not in a rose garden. On the contrary, we are desperate and only one notch away from economic disaster. We lack working capital, raw material and buyers. Our only hope is the benefit we might obtain in December. However, the elections announcement leads us to the well-based fear that as a result of unrest and political challenges, common in election campaigns, the people will not go to stores to buy gifts for their relatives and friends. If this happens, the country would be the loser.

We are not against democratic measures such as elections so that the people may freely decide who are the best citizens to govern us, but we respectfully ask the country's leaders to think carefully, to consult with trade unions, and they will realize that no one wants the culmination of an elections campaign in December based on past experience, this would destroy our chance to recover what we have lost and to enter a new phrase of economic recovery that we need so much to live. This is more important than electing a new president who could be elected in any month other than December.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON FORMER GUERRILLA MONTENEGRO

PA121912 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1859 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Armed Forces do not know the whereabouts of guerrilla commander Alejandro Montenegro, Deputy Defense Minister Col Rafael Flores Lima said at a news conference today. He added that he learned that Montenegro arrived in Panama accompanied by other persons late last year, but "since then we do not know where he is."

According to Flores Lima, "for logical reasons Arquimedes Antonia Canada (Alejandro Montenegro) has not sought his rehabilitation, but we will be receiving information from him on many things that will be very interesting."

Last week the guerrilla leader made statements in El Salvador on the national television network. He appealed to the insurgents to lay down their weapons and participate in the upcoming presidential elections. During the television network, Alejandro Montenegro did not say where he was, but affirmed that he gave up the armed struggle "because of the Cuban interference in the Salvadoran guerrilla struggle."

According to the clandestine Radio Venceremos, the rebel leader was arrested late last year in Honduras and turned over to the Salvadoran authorities, who transferred him to Panama and from there to Caracas where he currently lives.

Alejandro Montenegro, commander of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), a part of the FMLN, was in charge of the country's central zone, especially the Guazapa volcano area until his arrest in Tegucigalpa in August 1982.

REBEL LEADERS REPORTEDLY IN COSTA RICA

PA122315 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 12 Mar 83 pp 3, 9

[Text] FMLN and FDR delegates are moving about freely in Costa Rica. Costa Rican papers report that subversive commanders have been seen "resting" at Costa Rican beaches after "acting up" in El Salvador.

According to reports, Salvadoran terrorist organizations have undercover support in Costa Rica and are now in the phase preceding open subversive activities there, including kidnappings and other activities to secure money in order to avoid future financial worries.

The reports say that they are not openly implementing their plans against Costa Rica because that country is serving them as a refuge and as a hall between North and South America, but they will do so in the future. International subversion has accomplices in that country.

The sources said that a few days ago terrorist Ana Guadalupe Martinez said in Paris that the subversive organization has $250 million to carry out all sorts of activities. Much of this money, Martinez, comes from ransom paid for kidnapped persons.

UNGO: U.S. AID MEANT TO CUSHION REGIME'S FALL

PA131957 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0145 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Panama City -- Guillermo Ungo, president of the opposition FDR of El Salvador, has said that the aid for El Salvador that U.S. President Reagan has requested from Congress is aimed at diminishing the violence, that is to say the speed, of the fall of the government of that Central American country.

In exclusive statements to INTER PRESS SERVICE, Ungo said in Panama City that there is a basic discrepancy between the manner in which the Reagan and Magana administrations view the causes for the Salvadoran conflict and the viewpoint recently expressed by Pope John Paul II.

RADIO VENCEREMOS: ERP COMMUNIQUE ON MONTENEGRO

PA141745 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the General Command of the People's Revolutionary Army, ERP, regarding the case of former Commander Alejandro Montenegro; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] On 22 August 1982, members of the Honduran Army's Cobra battalion captured Arquimedes Antonio Canada, alias Alejandro Montenegro, in Tegucigalpa.

The forces captured (Cesar Amilcar Gonzalez) along with Montenegro. Some hours before, the same battalion had arrested the following persons in a Tegucigalpa house: (Jose Antonio Caceres Galindo); (Gisela Reyes Portillo); (Teresa de Jesus Serrano Alvarenga), mother of FMLN Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo; and two children; (Roberto Armando Cruz Serrano) and (Grecia Ligidite Armijo Reyes).

All have been kept in seclusion since the date of their capture. We learned through our intelligence services that in September the seven captives were moved to El Salvador, where they were placed in the custody of the general staff, most directly under Colonel Flores Lima.

On 17 September, the Cinchoneros Liberation Movement attacked the Chamber of Commerce building in San Pedro Sula and included in its demands the release of the seven captives. Following this, Honduran Government officials publicly announced that they had transferred the prisoners to El Salvador. At this point, the case had taken on a great amount of importance and the U.S. Government decided to take a hand in it. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz suggested that high command suspend efforts to make an exchange for Colonel Castillo [defense under secretary captured by the FMLN] to make way for a better plan using the Montenegro case.

Montenegro and the other six captives were placed in the hands of the CIA and the U.S. State Department. The CIA and Venezuelan security organizations implemented a plan with Montenegro to take advantage of the conduct and willingness to cooperate that Montenegro began to show toward the enemy as a result of the pressure and torture to which he was subjected.

The State Department and CIA, in conjunction with the Governments of Panama, Venezuela and the International Red Cross, took the seven captives from the country to Venezuela. There they were held incommunicado under the pretext of an alleged threat to their security. The ojective of the CIA plan was to stage, through pressure, torture and Montenegro's betrayal and weaknesses, a publicity show in which Montenegro would be portrayed as a man who dissented from the FMLN because allegedly excessive Nicaraguan, Cuban and Soviet interference within that organization.

At this time our intelligence services, based on specific facts, proved to us that Montenegro had given information to the enemy and was collaborating with them. Considering that the implications of Venezuela's participation in the case could not be kept under wraps, we decided to make these charges in an effort to resolve the case which was clearly a case of kidnapping in which the State Department and the Venezuelan Government were implicated. To us the decision to follow up on the charges had a strictly humanitarian objective, and focused on the cases of Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo's mother and the two children.

Our propaganda organs were ordered to suspend coverage of the Montenegro case. Montenegro was stripped of all his posts and expelled from our ranks under the charges of treason.

On 22 February, (Amilcar Gonzalez), one of the seven persons who were kidnapped, went to the Nicaraguan Embassy in Venezuela and spoke with embassy personnel. (Gonzalez) told the officials that the seven of them were being held at a clandestine house belonging to DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], the Venezuelan Government's security police. (Gonzalez) requested asylum for the seven of them.

The following day, Tuesday, 23 November, (Amilcar Gonzalez) again went to the Nicaraguan Embassy to check to see if they had been granted asylum. Embassy personnel confirmed that it had been granted, and (Gonzalez) in turn gave them the address of the house where they were being held and agreed to come to the embassy the following day with the rest of his companions.

Later on we learned that (Amilcar Gonzalez) had also requested asylum at the French Embassy in Venezuela, but because France and Venezuela do not have a treaty on the subject, asylum was not granted. The French Government, however, asked the Venezuelan Government to allow the seven people who had been kidnapped by the Venezuelan police to freely visit the Nicaraguan Embassy. After this, no one else went to the embassy, which led us to believe that the control and security measures over the seven were increased.

On 3 March 1983, the dictatorship released a film in which Montenegro makes a public statement. This action reaffirmed the CIA's intention to use Montenegro's weakness and lack of moral strength to mount a publicity show in keeping with imperialism's political and military interests.

We have established our position on the Montenegro case by looking at it from two different angles: One, to account to our people for this weak behavior by a former member of our organization, such as Alejandro Montenegro, who was lacking in moral strength and conviction to the extent that he betrayed the people; and two, to respond to the words that the CIA and the U.S. Administration put into Montenegro's mouth.

To us revolutionaries, imprisonment and torture is one of the best ways to prove our moral strength and conviction. In our fight against the enemy in that field, the revolutionaries can rely only on the weapons of dignity and moral strength. In our ranks there is a principle that militants, and even more so revolutionary leaders, should never give information or cooperate with enemy plans even if they have to pay for this with their lives or suffer the cruelest torture.

Hundreds of our brothers have fallen heroically in the fulfillment of this duty. With shame we have to tell our people that at the time he was captured Montenegro was the head of our forces on the Guazapa front and that he did not fulfill his duty. When he came face to face with the enemy he became frightened and this fear led him to release all of his personal resentment and invidivual indecision.

The enemy took advantage of this to cast him in the most despicable of roles: that of a vulgar traitor that imperialism is trying to elevate to the category of political dissident . Part of the blame that Montenegro has to bear as an informer is that of having given the enemy the location of FMLN camps and positions on Guazapa hill; the routes used for supplies and logistics; and [information about] structures, the number of armed men, types of weapons, and the defense systems of our Guazapa forces. In addition, he revealed the names of the persons who took him from El Salvador to Honduras and information that he had regarding meetings and the organization's plans.

Among the more serious incidents are the following: Based on information and tips given by Alejandro Montenegro, on 13 September at 1700 and on 12 September at 0600 four A-37 airplanes -- a larger number than that which the air force usually uses for its operations -- carried out a heavy bombing raid on almost all the FMLN positions on Guazapa hill. Although these bombings -- even if they are very heavy -- usually are not very heavy -- usually are not very effective, on this occasion the precision of the attack increased its effectiveness and a bomb struck down 20 companeros of the production and masses structures of the companeros of the people's liberation forces. These 20 companeros, including several children, died as a result of the bombing.

Other bombs fell a scant few meters away from our command post, which was one of the targets that was most heavily attacked. One bomb fell a short distance away from Commander Benjamin Landaverde and Commander Ana Sonia Medina, members of our general command, and from our central communications post. Thanks to the military engineering work that protects our command post, the explosion caused no major harm to the chiefs and personnel who were there.

During the early morning hours of 14 December, forces from the Belloso Battalion began an operation against the FMLN, attacking the positions that our organization maintain on the (Linea del Chorizo) northeast of Guazapa hill. The precision of the enemy's attack and their knowledge of the exact location of our positions -- as a result of the information and tips they received from Alejandro Montenegro -- made us lose the entire defense line in a very short time. In a few minutes 10 of our companeros were injured, some of them seriously.

These incidents that we have cited are only some of the problems and repercussions that Alejandro Montenegro's revelations have caused us. Now imperialism is trying to present him as a political dissident.

Responsibility for revolutionary casualities already rests on Montenegro's head, as well as responsibility for having given information that -- had we not taken measures -- would have cost other companeros their lives. Montenegro's words have no moral value. It is his fear that the revolutionary oath to remain silent may be invoked that leads him to say anything and to speak the enemy's language.

The imperialists want to make a political dissident of a person who did not change his position voluntarily, but rather as a result of having endured capture, isolation, torture and pressure. Behind the force with which Alejandro Montenegro delivers his message is the determination of some who wants to justify his lack of integrity, his moral baseness and his act of treason. This kind of enemy plan contributes to and constitutes when he manages to capture important revolutionary cadres. For revolutionaries, out of fear, to go to the extreme of publicity denying our convictions before the people is one of the greatest acts of humiliation and betrayal.

On 2 November 1981 in the same city of Tegucigalpa, members of the Honduran Public Security Forces, FUSEP, captured commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, member of our general command. He was immediately listed as missing and was taken to a safe house that is part of the paramilitary structure directly handled by the CIA, General Alvarez and the Argentine advisors.

From the very first days, Companero Armijo was subjected t orture and abuse, and he was not given any food for more than 15 days. Under these conditions, a ranking officer of the Honduran Armed Forces who identified himself as a member of the intelligence services, told Companero Armijo that there was only one way to solve his situation; to promise to film a videotape for television in which he would publicly state that he renounced his status as a militant in the FMLN. In exchange for this his life would be spared; he would receive a large stipend permanently, and a home with all the comforts for himself and his entire family in Venezuela or the United States; and protection. That is to say, the same offer that Montenegro undoubtedly accepted.

Companero Armijo rejected this categorically, and this provoked the wrath of his torturers, who saw their plans aborted because they could not obtain any information or collaboration from him.

Following this, through international pressure we managed to obtain the release of Commander Armijo and learned about these events. As we have already said, hundreds of companeros have fulfilled their duty under the difficult circumstances of being held and tortured by the enemy. Among them we recall commanders (Jose Mario Chamagua, Chemo) and (Guillermo Posada, Raul), chiefs of the western front who were captured at a difficult moment when more than 100 companeros had fallen in January 1971 in Cutumay-Camones, Santa Ana Department. These companeros were tortured to death but they did not reveal any of the secrets of their organization.

We likewise recall Companera (Edith Dolores Montalvo), Commander (Tita), who also was captured and tortured and who died without saying a word. To go back further, we recall Companero (Carlos Menjivar) who in 1973 preferred to commit suicide in the military hospital than to continue living and exposing the secrets of the organization while under interrogation and torture.

As we have been saying, many have fallen while fulfilling their duty. They died a slow death while enduring truly barbaric tortures, and yet they did not utter a word. Their heroism, worthy behavior, courage and absolute faithfulness to the peoples' interests are the values that guide the revolutionaries.

When the peoples are determined to struggle and to achieve victory thousands of their best offspring espouse and maintain these principles. It is not a weak and fainthreated man, a coward and a traitor who is going to halt the heroic struggle of an entire people determined to achieve its freedom.

The people's trust in their leaders rests on how faithful the latter are to their principles in practice. When their leaders falter, the people's struggle does not slow down or halt. It forges ahead, and the cowardly are thrown into the trash can of history.

The statement made by Montenegro in his message is mostly the arguments used by imperialism. Since the U.S. Government is mainly responsible, it is to that government, not to Montenegro, that we address part of this reply.

We want imperialism to clearly realize what we think of each desperate statement it makes in trying to face down to difficult situation our forces have imposed on the Salvadoran dictatorship -- despite the advisers, despite the economic and military aid, and despite the increasingly brazen interference of the United States in the coflict.

The imperialists say that the economic sabotage carried out by our forces is terrorist activity that makes absolutely no sense. The Salvadoran dictatorship, its armed forces and imperialism know perfectly well that the economy is the basic pillar of political and military power and that in every way, the basic economic areas are military objectives. The dictatorship is always crying about the effects of economic sabotage; therefore, it is necessary to see what military effects are gained from sabotage and what advantages it gives to the revolutionary movement.

1. Sabotage has a strong impact on the economy, which reduces the dictatorship's capacity for continuing the war. Therefore, it reduces the offensive potential of the armed forces.

2. It forces the army to disperse widely, deploying many units to guard highways, bridges, transportation routes, communications media, electrical wires and installations, estates, etc. Thus we are also reducing the army's offensive potential in this way.

3. The army's inability to control the situation is demonstrated, and thus the state apparatus of the dictatorship is destabilized.

The war we are currently waging is no game. It has become a large-scale confrontation, in which our forces are about to defeat the army. The U.S. advisers and military analysts themselves feel that our sabotage strategy is sound as one of the ways of winning this war against the dictatorship. This is why both imperialism and General Garcia are begging us to stop the sabotage. Sabotaging the economy within the framework of a war is not terrorism. It is a weapon used in any military confrontation.

Terrorism is what the dictatorship does when it massacres the civilian population because it supposedly collaborates with us. Terrorism is the indiscriminate bombing and shelling by the air force and artillery in populated areas. Terrorism is killing women, children and elderly people, as the Atlacatl Battalion, trained by U.S. advisers, did in El Mozote and in other cantons in Morazan. Terrorism is what Colonel Moran and the Treasury Police practice every day when they kidnap, torture and kill hundreds of people and display their bodies in the streets and neighborhoods of the various cities. This is the terrorism for which the high military command, the oligarchy and U.S. imperialism are responsible.

We are waging war against this terrorism, a just war that we will not stop despite the campaigns orchestrated by the Reagan administration. We inform General Garcia and imperialism that we will continue to wield the weapon of sabotage, blowing up bridges, interrupting power, transportation, sabotaging coffee and cotton production, cutting off communications and doing all that is necessary to achieve the people's victory.

The dictatorship and imperialism constantly charge that the FMLN leaders are abroad, conducting the war from there, the purpose of this charge is presumably to affect our forces' morale on the various war fronts. We have not bothered to answer this charge up to now because the imperialists -- the most immoral of the immoral -- General Garcia and his corrupt high command will not be the judges determining how we Salvadoran revolutionaries are going to conduct this war. Our strategic directorate goes wherever circumstances demand it, regardless of whether this pains or bothers either General Garcia or the Americans.

We are sending this message from Morazan, El Salvador, a territory where you, General Garcia, have been unable to defeat us. The high morale of our forces is based on the capacity of our strategic commands to conduct war from the very scenes of war, also in the capacity shown by the same strategic commands in meeting material and political needs of this war with international help. [Brief 10-second pause in transmission]

Imperialism and Garcia have tried to make us feel ashamed because our forces and leaders have remained or are still abroad at a given time. We tell the imperialists and General Garcia that we are not ashamed of being abroad when circumstances of war make it necessary, because as you already know, at certain times we have accomplished important missions abroad.

1. We have conducted important logistic operations in clandestinity, which have served to provide our forces with arms and ammunition for long periods of time. We have conducted these operations using all the means available, and therefore, have used the entire Central American region and other countries.

2. We have carried out campaigns and plans to obtain the necessary funds to maintain our forces, and this has been done throughout the world.

3. We have organized a large solidarity apparatus that encompasses the whole planet, even in the United States, where one of the most active centers of solidarity exists. Hundreds of thousands of sympathizers with the cause of the Salvadoran people, of all nationalities, have joined this powerful solidarity apparatus. They repudiate imperialist intervention and are ready to deploy the necessary force and activity to stop or denounce imperialism if its Marines dare to touch Salvadoran territory.

4. We have a strong diplomatic and political apparatus that enables us to maintain and expand our relations with a significant number of forces and governments throughout the world, many of whom recognize our delegations as embassies, or receive them as state representatives. With this instrument, we have defeated imperialism and the dictatorship at the United Nations, in the Nonaligned Movement, at dozens of conferences of democratic forces and parties. We have been recognized by the French and Mexican Governments, isolating the dictatorship, and have been increasingly complicating U.S. interventionist policy in the diplomatic field. We do all of this, based on the legitimate and just right of our people to arm themselves and get the necessary supplies to fight against an opprobrious dictatorship; based on our full right to seek solidarity and support from governments and political forces throughout the world, to fight against the permanent threat of intervention.

Imperialism and its representatives have referred to our country as their backyard. They manipulate our sovereignty at will, are trying to decide on our people's future, deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to the dictatorship, use blackmail and pressure on governments through international organizations. However, at the same time, they cry and complain because the FMLN, responsible for the defense of the interests of the Salvadoran people, strengthens its struggle as a result of international solidarity.

We repeat to imperialism that we will continue our struggle inside and outside our territory, regardless of what they want to say about the FSLN's leadership. However, if General Garcia and imperialism are interested in knowing where our strategic command is right now, we want them to know that we are here in the interior of the country, in Morazan, Guazapa, Chalatenango. If this bothers them, they can come here and try to move us out. We are waiting for them.

The imperialists claim that the FLSN is handled by Nicaraguans, Cubans, and even by Soviets. Unfortunately the USSR is a country that's too far away. But as usual, imperialism tries to relate any conflict to their confrontation with the USSR. The alleged Soviet participation is groundless: it has no chance of happening. Now then, the U.S. Government has tried to make us appear to be instruments of Cuba and Nicaragua, when these two countries are permanently facing the threat of an attack from the United States. The explanation and reasons for the war in our country are not in Cuba or Nicaragua, they are due to the repression and misery our people are now experiencing, and this does not require much explanation, as it is evident.

However, in dealing with our country's situation, imperialism has designed a regional strategy, uses economic pressure on Latin American governments in order to force them to support U.S. plans, violates the Panama Canal treaties, threatens Panamanian stability, foments coup d'etats in Guatemala, places General Alvarez in power in Honduras, and makes this country the main instrument for its military plans in Central America. It also uses economic pressure to force Costa Rica into becoming its diplomatic pawn, supports Somozist bands based in Honduras, threatens to invade Nicaragua, tries to isolate Cuba from the rest of Latin America and puts enormous economic pressure on Mexico, in an effort to have it change its foreign policy.

In the midst of this panorama, the kings of aggression, the enemies of humankind are denouncing us because according to them our struggle is not a national struggle and we are instruments of Cuba and Nicaragua. Our struggle is and will continue to be a national struggle, but we are not naive and realize that we cannot and should not fail to include our plans within the framework of a regional conflict, in which the interests of the peoples of Central America, the Caribbean and Latin America in general are at stake. Our struggle in the diplomatic and political field already has a regional context, and if the imperialists insist on their policy of aggression, the open regionalization of the war will become a necessity and we will participate in it.

It is in this context that the forces that form the FMLN maintain and strengthen relations with all the forces and governments interested in the peace of Central and Latin America. That is why we reply to imperialism: We are and will continue to be friends of the peoples and Governments of Cuba and Nicaragua and we are not ashamed of this. On the contrary, we are proud to maintain relations with those peoples, who are bastions of the anti-imperialist struggle.

It is not the Reagan administration that is going to tell the FMLN who its friends and its enemies should be.

And now, in face of the FMLN's uncontainable advance, General Garcia and the U.S. Government are again inventing elections and amnesty as the instruments for their salvation. In his latest speech, Mr Reagan threatens us openly and barefacedly and speaks of our homeland as if it were his colony. The elections are a political action with which the United States wants to cover up the sending of more military aid. The United States wants to advance the elections because of the danger of the Salvadoran Army losing the war.

We want to tell Garcia and the imperialists that neither the elections nor the absurd amnesty are going to halt the victorious advance of all the revolutionary forces united in the FMLN, and that if the U.S. soldiers begin to fight our forces they will be defeated. The current U.S. administration will be solely responsible if U.S. citizens begin to die on our soil. Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] ERP General Command. From Morazan, Commander ana Sonia Medina, Mariana; Commander Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Luisa; Commander Juan Ramon Medrano, Balta; Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Chico; Commander Jorge Melendez, Jonas; and Commander Joaquin Villalobos. Currently fulfilling duties in our international relations structure abroad, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Maria. [Dated] Morazan, 12 March 1983.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT TO LIFT STATE OF SIEGE 23 MAR

PA121714 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Gen Oscar Mejia Victores has confirmed that the state of siege will be lifted on 23 March. President Efrain Rios Montt approved this decision at a cabinet meeting. Another, more flexible, measure will replace the state of siege, providing greater guarantees for the citizenry in general.

General Mejia Victores has explained that the current government maintains its decision to foster the political opening that the president himself has repeatedly announced.

HONDURAN PROTEST OVER EXECUTIONS REJECTED

PA111933 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Text] The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry has replied to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat in relation to a press communique recently issued in Tegucigalpa protesting the execution of Honduran citizen Marco Antonio Gonzalez, which took place on 3 March in Guatemala City. Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola made the following remarks in relation to the exchange of notes at the government level:

[Begin recording] The Honduran foreign secretary has issued a statement in a press communique in which he analyzes the Guatemalan laws and says that legal procedures were violated, harming an innocent citizen; but evidence presented at the trials established the active participation of this Honduran citizen in terrorist acts and kidnappings.

Under these circumstances, the communique is based on completely false considerations and, furthermore, the appropriate diplomatic procedures were not followed. As an example, you may recall that a Guatemalan doctor traveling on a motorcycle was recently killed in Copan by Honduran troops, and that the U.S. nurse accompanying him was insulted. This matter was handled using diplomatic channels, and we asked the Honduran Government to send those responsible to court, so that they would be sentenced for their responsibility in the murder of this doctor. In contrast to this, the execution of a citizen who had all the facilities for his defense, and whose participation in serious criminal activities was confirmed, has prompted this communique, which shows poor handling of diplomatic relations. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS MORE EXECUTIONS LIKELY

PA121734 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Gen Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan defense minister, has said that he believes the members of a band of attackers and rapists, recently arrested and currently being tried by the special military courts, will be executed by firing squad. About 2 weeks ago, the government announced that it had captured a band of about 10 men, most of whom were members of the army. The government, however, did not specify to which corps they belonged.

Minister Mejia was of the opinion that the members of this band which is reportedly responsible for numerous attacks, robberies and rapes should get the punishment they deserve. He also said that the death penalty is necessary in such cases, since the people cannot be protected with prayers alone, in an allusion to the Catholic Church's opposition to capital punishment.

Since the current government was installed on 23 March 1982, 10 men have been executed by firing squad. Four were executed in September 1982 for belonging to the guerrilla movement. The other six who were accused of being terrorists and kidnappers, were shot on 3 March, 3 days before the visit of Pope John Paul II, who had requested clemency for them.

HONDURAS

'SANDINIST ARMY' REPORTEDLY MINING BORDER

PA120502 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Illermo Arias Rodriguez telephone report from Choluteca]

[Excerpt] The Sandinist army is mining the border. While passing through the area, a Nicaraguan stepped on a mine and was blown to pieces. Some of his relatives tried to recover his body, under which there was another mine, and two of them were mutilated.

We have received a note from an unknown place in Nicaragua. Its contents prove once more the criminal instincts of the current rulers of that country, which is worthy of better fortune. From now on, peasants who live on the border area will not be able to walk freely on their property, and if they suffer any mishap they will not be able to get help from their compatriots or from international bodies like the Red Cross for fear of losing their lives in the attempt.

The letter says that on Friday, 4 March, Valentin Dominguez, a native of El Lajero, Chinandega Department, was walking in a lonely place not knowing that the Sandinist army had mined the entire area. A strong explosion was heard seconds later, and some of his relatives ran there but found his body completely dismembered.

BORDER ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH EL SALVADOR

PA112015 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica was chosen yesterday as president of the working groups formed by Honduras and El Salvador that will discuss the demarcation of the common border to try and end the 100-year-old dispute between the two countries.

The Honduran and Salvadoran foreign ministers, Edgardo Paz Barnica and Fidel Chavez Mena, and the members of the mixed committee on boundaries formed by the two countries began the important meeting yesterday at 1045. It is expected that the discussions will end tonight.

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, a Salvadoran, was appointed secretary for the two groups. Immediately following this appointment the groups sat around the discussion table of the Honduran Central Bank conference room and the meeting began.

The most important subjects to be discussed by the members of the committee are analyzing the demarcation of the Honduran-Salvadoran borders, approving the TELA act signed by Paz Barnica and Chavez Mena at the 14-15 January meeting, analyzing the progress in the demarcation of the border and, in conclusion, forming a permanent working group on demarcation.

Besides foreign Minister Paz Barnica, the Honduran working group is formed by Arnulfo Lopez, under secretary for foreign affairs; Rodolfo Rosales Abella; Pedro Pineda Madrid; Ramon Balladases Soto; Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro; and Mario Carias Zapata. Besides Foreign Minister Chavez Mena, the Salvadoran working group is formed by Rene Padilla Velasco, David Escobar Balindo, Rene Emilio Ponce and Jose Alberto Gonzalez Garcia.

Besides the two foreign ministers, the main table was occupied by Sigfrido Munes, Salvadoran ambassador to Honduras; Rodolfo Rosales Asella, chief of the Honduran Boundaries Commission; Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, Honduran under secretary of Foreign Relations, Rene Padilla Velasco, chief of the Salvadoran Boundaries Commission; and Roberto Suazo Tome, Honduran ambassador to El Salvador.

More on Talks

PA112059 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 Mar 83 p 3

[By Rene Mantarero]

[Excerpt] Even though in the past few days political good will has prevailed between Honduras and El Salvador for the solution of the 100-year-old border conflict between the two countries, Honduras has given a serious warning to El Salvador, saying that it is ready to go before the International Court of Justice in The Hague if necessary.

Magana's Promises

"Honduras is my second homeland," Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena said at the opening of a meeting with his Honduran colleague, Edgardo Paz Barnica, for an extensive analysis of the border situation. "We come with the desire to overcome the small border problems according to the general peace treaty," Chavez Mena added.

When asked by LA TRIBUNA if this meant that El Salvador firmly believed in solving the conflict through dialogue, instead of taking the issue before an International Court, Chavez Mena answered: "President Alvaro Magana said that his wish was to solve the border problem as soon as possible and therefore avoid having to go before the International Court of Justice in The Hague."

We Trust His Words

In this respect, Paz Barnica said "we trust his words. We should remember that President Suazo Cordova's government, through the Foreign Secretariat, has been insisting before the Salvadoran Government on the urgent need to settle the border conflict by means of direct negotiations, as established in the general peace treaty signed in Lima, Peru, in 1980."

Next, Paz Barnica issued a strong warning to El Salvador by stressing: "But if we must go to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Honduras is ready to do so."

Normal Relations

In the meantime, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Chavez Mena, commenting on Honduras' recent protests over violations of Honduran territory by Salvadoran soldiers, said: "This does not affect relations between the two countries. The complaint is being investigated. Neither does it affect the work of the border commissions. There are no obstacles. Good relations prevail. There is a framework for the solution of these problems."

GOVERNMENT PREPARING FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

PA121653 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1512 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government is preparing a continental meeting of foreign ministers, it was officially reported today in Tegucigalpa. According to the report, the meeting is "a new attempt to seek adequate solutions to the complex and delicate crisis in Central America."

The meeting has been tentatively planned for Tegucigalpa at a still unspecified date, the official bulletin states.

"The Honduran Foreign Secretariat, in cooperation with other governments, is conducting the necessary consultations, to obtain the participation of all the democratic countries of Latin America," the report adds. The document indicates that the Honduran initiative has the support of Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic. Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica affirmed that the meeting will broach specific aspects on the problem of the Central American region as a whole in an effort to have peace prevail."

NICARAGUA

CARDENAL EXPLAINS INCIDENTS DURING POPE'S VISIT

PA132209 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Reverend Father Fernando Cardenal held a news conference at the Culture Workers Front headquarters in Panama City in which he strongly criticized U.S. intervention in Central America. Cardenal is now a high-ranking leader of the Sandinist Youth Front. He also referred to local and foreign media reports and comments on Pope John Paul II's visit to Nicaragua.

Cardenal began by calling the United States the common enemy of the Central American people, and called for unity among area countries to achieve solidarity and strength. In this respect he said:

[Begin recording] [in progress]...a single people, or there is no Central America. We cannot carry forward the Sandinist people's revolution without you. Panama will definitely not win the canal without the help of all Central and South American brothers. We are too small to separate. If U.S. imperialism says five or nothing, we say a single people or nothing.

My presence here among you is to see whether I can contribute the high command's personal and direct experience so that we may achieve unity through communication. Because our interests as a people are identical, this is an important step. The interests of those who divide us are alien to our people's interests. Therefore, nothing should separate us. For the sake of that communication, for the sake of that unity, I am here before you. [end recording]

When asked about the Nicaraguan people's conduct during the mass held by the pope in Managua, Father Cardenal summarized all the problems that still encumber that nation, which range from economic to military intervention. He affirmed, however, that the Nicaraguan people only want to live in peace and this is why they are struggling and will not permit anyone to enter to destroy the few gains made thus far. Father Cardenal said that the Nicaraguan people expected Pope John Paul II to make an appeal for peace during the mass. Nevertheless, said Cardenal, the peope limited his remarks to the unity of the church, a subject contrary to the clamor of the people who repeatedly interrupted the mass with shouts of we want peace. On the incursions of counterrevolutionaries into the country, they shouted they shall not pass, they shall not pass. Father Cardenal said the following:

[Begin recording] We know very well where all the Somozist guard's camps are and they are not a military problem; we can eliminate them. It is a political problem; we cannot cross the border. The Sandinist army's military philosophy is expressed in a single slogan: We are struggling to win; they shall not pass. We do not say we are going over there; they shall not pass. This is the national slogan; they shall not pass. This was (?heard from many people during the Pope's mass); they shall not pass.

This is a [word indistinct] that the people's militia has been preparing for several years, with the slogan they shall not pass, they shall not pass. He who comes will stay. We will not stay. They would have to first destroy us as a nation, as a people, as a nation. They shall not pass. This kept growing and growing. In December, our principal export product, coffee, was harvested. The U.S. line to the Somozists then was spread terror so that there will be no coffee harvest. They began to kill, to come in and to kidnap people.

[On the morning of the pope's visit] there were 600,000 or 700,000 Nicaraguans in Managua and 100,000 in Leon. We used every means of transportation available, and used 2 months of fuel in 2 days so that not one peasant in Nicaragua who wanted to see the pope would be prevented from coming. We paralyzed the whole country to bring the people. Never in the country's history were so many people, between 600,000 and 700,000 gathered together.

When the pope arrived there were flags, applause and handkerchiefs. It was a sea of joy and enthusiasm; the pope, the pope, the pope, the pope. I do not want to give interpretations; everyone can make his own. The mood began to change during the pope's mass. It began with we want peace, we want peace, we want peace, we want peace, we want peace. Then, the 50 mothers who were in front with the (?photographs) of their children who had died recently gena to request a prayer for our children, a prayer for our children, a prayer for our children.

I believe that the misinformation given to a figure such as His Holiness John Paul II -- who has demonstrated interest for peace and for resolving the problems of all countries during all his travels -- decided at that moment not to hold a praver for the dead. Instead he spoke of peace and the unity of the (?isthmus) [words indistinct]. The people began to change [words indistinct] it can be seen on the videocasette. I have just seen it (?and you have seen it). The people began to change, change, change. They shouted until the end and with increasing force we want peace, we want peace, a prayer for our dead, and then, they shall not pass. [words indistinct] [end recording]

Father Cardenal, brother of the present Nicaraguan culture minister, affirmed that the Sandinist government provided every cooperation for the people to receive the pope as he deserves because the Nicaraguan people are traditionally Catholic.

DELEGATION TO NONALIGNED PAYS VISIT TO SRV

For Hanoi coverage of the visit to Vietnam, beginning 12 March, of the Nicaraguan delegation led by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, see the Vietnam section of the 15 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Ortega Address at Banquet

OW131728 Hanoi VNA in English 1638 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13 -- Revolutionary Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, head of the Nicaraguan party and state delegation, made the following speech at the banquet given in Hanoi on March 12 in honour of his delegation:

"Esteemed Comrade Truong Chinh, president of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Esteemed comrades leaders of the party and state of the SRV.

On behalf of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), the Government of National Reconstruction and the Nicaraguan people, we extend to you our militant solidarity on the visit to your heroic land, the land of President Ho Chi Minh and of the Vietnamese people, who have become an example for all the peoples in struggle all over the world, and an inspiration to the Nicaraguan people.

Today, though we have gained victory, the enemy is seeking every way to oppose and sabotage us. In fact, it has always carried out oppressive acts against our people.

Everybody knows of the tense situation in Central America and the increasing involvement of imperialism to oppose the courageous struggle of the people in El Salvador and other countries in this region.

It is introducing more military personnel and means of war in an attempt to save the reactionary administration in El Salvador from complete failure. At this moment, the danger of U.S. intervention in El Salvador is very serious. Such is the threat made by the U.S. rulers under pretext of defending their interests in Central America. They are now seeking the approval of public opinion in America and the world for such an intervention.

We all know that imperialism always adopts an aggressive policy toward other peoples in Asia, Africa, Latin America and other parts of the world. We also know that imperialism always pursues an aggressive policy toward the heroic Vietnamese people, and the Lao and Kampuchea peoples. In face of the imperialist aggressive policy, however, the policy and line of the nations have become even more powerful and firm than ever before. More and more peoples and governments in the world have voiced their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

We are living through very difficult days when world peace is being seriously threatened by the arms race of imperialism. Imperialism has turned a deaf ear to the initiatives for disarmament and reduction of nuclear weapons. Such an attitude of imperialism has been vehemently condemned by peace-loving peoples and governments in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. We all know that such a policy of imperialism will certainly be defeated, in El Salvador, in Vietnam, in Laos and Kampuchea. The bellicose policy and the arms race policy of imperialism will be defeated by mankind because the strength of nations is greater than imperialism.

Today we are visiting the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with boundless admiration for a nation who has suffered a great deal, but who has been very heroic; a nation whose example has contributed to the fight for the liberation and independence of many nations, to peace of the whole mankind.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm the fraternal relationship of our party, government and people with the party, government and people of Vietnam; a relationship that has been forced in the common fight against imperialism, for justice, and genuine democracy.

Dear Comrade Truong Chinh and the other representatives of the Vietnamese party, and state: Let me raise a toast to the fraternal friendship between our two parties, governments and peoples. Allow me to formulate my best wishes for our friendship in action, in our untiring struggle against imperialism and for peace, the common concern of the S.R.V. and of the Nicaraguan revolution.

SOMOZISTS ACCUSED OF PEASANT 'MASSACRE'

PA121340 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpts] San Dionisio, Matagalpa -- Five peasants had their throats slashed yesterday morning in this town by a counterrevolutionary group, according to yesterday's BARRICADA. The counterrevolutionaries captured the peasants some 3 km from this community, located 66 km from Matagalpa. Their hands were bound behind their backs and they were taken under the concrete bridge over Rio Viejo, where they were brutally beaten, their bodies slashed with bayonets.

The bodies, which were taken to the San Dionisio Sandinist police station, showed deep slashes near the heart and throat.

The peasants had come to town to buy corn. (Pablo Mendoza), one of the victims, came from Esquipulas, where he had spent the night serving volunteer guard duty.

The massacre, which occurred between 0800 and 0900 on Thursday 10 March, took place almost simultaneously with the ambush of a jeep carrying three members of the Armed Forces. The soldiers were also killed. They were identified as Lieutenant (Roberto Centeno), driver (Byron Castillo) and a third passenger identified only as (Valerio). The land rover jeep was drilled with bullets, some 15 meters from the Rio Viejo bridge. The bodies were taken to Matagalpa several hours after the killing.

Meanwhile, the victims were placed on the patio of the local police station. They lay on pieces of plywood and were covered with white sheets. They were all finally identified.

Another report revealed that during a violent clash on Tuesday, several guardsman were killed, although the casualties were not known.

(Jose Angel Barrera Vivas), 32, and five children, all of whom were held by the counterrevolutionaries for several hours, heard that several wounded guardsmen were being carried on muleback.

The counterrevolutionary bands operating in the area entered from Honduras several weeks ago. When their retreat was cut off, they headed for the mountains in our territory. The group, including several counterrevoltuionary military units, is made of over 500 men armed with rifles, 60-mm and 81-mm mortars, 60-mm machineguns, rockets and other weapons.

Last night San Dionisio residents held a rally repudiating the murder of the five peasants and the three members of the Armed Forces.

PSD CONDEMNS INCIDENT DURING POPE'S VISIT

PA1l1646 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1303 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Nicaraguan Social Democratic Party (PSD) has issued a declaration stating its disapproval of the interruptions by Sandinist groups while Pope John Paul II delivered his homily in this capital city on 4 March.

According to the Social Democrats, "the incidents that occurred (at the 19 July Plaza) at no time represented the true feelings of the Nicaraguan people, who are traditionally Catholic."

The opposition asked Nicaraguan Catholics "for stronger faith and greater closeness with the church, which today more than ever deserves this support."

The Social Democrats said: "We hope that what happened in Nicaragua during the holy father's trip will unmask the current leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution, who have religious freedom, freedom of expression and the free determination of the Nicaraguan people."

The opposition declaration was made the day after the FSLN declared "we can see political repercussions" in the speeches by the bishop of Rome.

The Sandinists also said that "there will be some who will find reason to strengthen their rightist positions" from the holy father's words in Nicaragua.

PASTORA URGES NICARAGUANS TO ABANDON SANDINISTS

PA111707 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2143 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- In a statement addressed to Nicaragua, Eden Pastora, "Commander Cero" of the Sandinist revolution, urged youths and peasants of his country to abandon the struggle in defense of the nine commanders of the Sandinist government.

Pastora stated in a press conference that the Nicaraguan Army has more than 25,000 soldiers, which "suffice to defend the government" from the attacks staged by former Somozists near the Honduran border.

Commander Cero accused former guardsmen of Anastasio Somoza of being the factor that has enabled the Sandinist government of Managua to remain in power, because the people do not want to return to the times of the Somozist tyranny.

Pastora charged that Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge takes advantage of the presence of the former guardsmen in the northern part of his country to stage publicity acts to promote the "Marxist regime" that rules Nicaragua.

"Public opinion is manipulated with lies and deceit," he said, "as in the case of the many militiamen killed who do not lose their lives defending the fatherland but as a result of accidents or other causes."

Pastora added that such is the case of Laureano Mairena, who was reported killed in combat against the invaders, but who really died while handling a mortar round.

Commander Cero, who 11 months ago announced he was leaving the Sandinist government and threatened to oust the nine commanders from power if they did not go of their own volition, stated today that "words are getting boring," noting that a year after having made the previous statement he is going to adopt another strategy, which he did not reveal.

He also charged that the Nicaraguan Government junta is composed of atheists who manipulated the thousands of Catholics who participated in the mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in Managua on 4 March, protraying them to the world as savages.

Pastora asked those aiding the former Somozists to stop doing so, because they are harming the people of Nicaragua.

Pastora, who was deputy interior minister and chief of the militias at the beginning of the Sandinist regime, now heads the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), together with Alfonso Robelo and other Nicaraguan opposition leaders.

Pastora was accompanied at today's press conference by Miguel Urroz (former chief of the internal police of Nicaragua), Mariano Montealegre (former chief of the helicopter squadron of the Sandinist regime), Claudio Picasso (former legal adviser of the police), and Roberto Guillen, who also held a high post in the security forces.

FIDEL CASTRO RETURNS TO COUNTRY 13 MARCH

FL141226 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro returned to the fatherland yesterday after heading the top-level Cuban delegation that attended the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference held in New Delhi and a brief visit to the GDR.

Fidel was greeted by Raul Castro, second secretary of the party and FAR minister, members and alternate members of the Politburo, the secretariat, vice presidents of the Council of Ministers, top officers of the FAR and the MININT [Interior Ministry], and leader of mass organizations. Fidel arrived accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Jorge Risquet, Division General Jose Abrahantes, Jose Alberto Naranjo, Hector Rodriguez Llompart, Antonio Nunez Jimenez, Fidel A. Castro Diaz, Nivaldo Herrera and Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

On his way back from India, Castro made a brief friendly visit to the GDR, where he was greeted by Erich Honecker, secretary general of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the Council of State, with whom he held fraternal talks. A joint press communique was issued at the end of the meeting.

RODRIGUEZ VIEWS FIDEL CASTRO'S ROLE AT SUMMIT

FL141315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] In an interview published by the newspaper GRANMA, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and member of the Cuban delegation to the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, has described as extraordinary the results of this great meeting of chiefs of states and governments. In my opinion, he said, Comrade Fidel's role in the New Delhi meeting was even more decisive than in the sixth summit and during his stay in India, the commander in chief held excellent talks with more than 40 chiefs of states or governments and many heads of delegations which were not represented at the highest level.

BULGARIA'S LUKANOV ARRIVES FOR COOPERATION TALKS

FL141440 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, is visiting Havana heading a delegation of his country to the 16th session of the intergovernmental commission for Bulgarian-Cuban cooperation which begins here today. Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers and head of the Cuban group in the talks; Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade; Manuel Vila Sosa, minister of domestic trade, and Marcos Lage went to the airport to greet Bulgarian delegation. They will discuss bilateral cooperation in the spheres of transportation, domestic trade, agriculture, food industry, planning and others. The Bulgarian delegation headed by Lukanov arrived here from Nicaragua where Lukanov signed a trade, technical and financial agreement.

Talks Open in Havana

FL150104 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Chaired by Antonio Esquivel, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the first session of the 16th meeting of the Bulgaria-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission began today at the protocol hall of Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel.

In his welcoming remarks, Antonio Esquivel, as head of the Cuban delegation, expressed satisfaction for getting together with a great friend of our country, and noted the importance of the meeting, which is being held at a time when the more reactionary circles of imperialism are attempting to lead the world to the brink of a catastrophe. He stated that during the past few years Bulgaria's cooperation and solidarity have been demonstrated in many opportunities, such as in training Cuban specialists in that fraternal nation, the unselfish aid received from thousands of Bulgarians in our fatherland, the assembly of important industries in our territory and the support given to the development of our agriculture and science and technology in general.

Relations between Bulgaria and Cuba, Antonio Esquivel stressed, are a demonstration of the wishes expressed by Fidel that they be an example between fraternal socialist countries. For his part, Andrey Lukanov said Cuba and Bulgaria oppose the current imperialist actions with unity and solidarity between our peoples and parties, with further strengthening of cooperation with the USSR and the rest of the CEMA member countries in favor of the policy of peace and disarmament.

Lukanov Visits Holguin

FL151305 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, is paying a visit to Holguin at the head of his country's delegation to the 16th meeting of the Bulgaria-Cuba intergovernmental economic cooperation commission underway in Havana.

On the first day of his visit to Holguin, Lukanov and his delegation visited the Heroes of 26 July farming equipment factory accompanied by Miguel Cano Blanco, alternate member of the Politburo and first secretary of the party in that province; Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and Marcos Lage, minister of the steelworking industry.

GRENADA

BISHOP DENOUNCES U.S. IN ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

PA130342 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2332 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Speech by Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop at rally to celebrate the 4th anniversary of the Grenadian revolution and to dedicate the Sandino Housing Materials Complex; location not mentioned -- live]

[Excerpts] And that link is this: That U.S. imperialism is getting to understand more clearly every day that all around the world they are suffering defeat after defeat, that all around the world with all of their attempts to try to roll back popular revolutions that these revolutions are continuing to go forward in strength. Where they were hoping to try to be able to use the Nonaligned Summit to keep silence on the question of El Salvador, the people of El Salvador instead not only were able to get firm solidarity but by their revolutionary fighting action over the last few weeks it was very, very clear to all of the countries present that the revolutionary fighters of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front were in fact winning the war in El Salvador. It became very clear to everyone at the summit that the people of El Salvador not only could, but would, win, and that is one of the major reasons that at this time there is this desperation. Ronald Reagan and his top advisers are now trying to ressurrect an old idea that all of us believed was dead: an idea they call the domino theory, under which they are trying to make out that if one country in Central America in fact was able to achieve its independence and freedom and its revolutionary forces win, that it would mean that every other country in the same region will immediately take the path of revolution.

Ronald Reagan and his advisers have become so desperate that right now they are trying to press the Congress of the United States to provide more money for the military in El Salvador, so as to continue to butcher the people of El Salvador. Right now they are very conscious of the fact that the revolutionary fighters are winning the national liberation struggle inside of El Salvador and that has them desperately afraid. [applause]

Over and over again, comrades, in the last week we have seen these elements laying their traps. At the end of last year the vice president of the United States, George Bush, made a statement in Miami in which again he attacked Cuba and Nicaragua and Grenada, and in which he again came out with the usual lies and made the usual threats. Just in the last 2 weeks the secretary of state, Shultz, again made a statement while he was appearing before one of the committees of the Congress, and on that occasion Shultz once again came up with a very tame attack against the Grenada revolution, the Cuban revolution and the Nicaraguan revolution.

And then on the 27th of last month, just a few days ago we discovered from a newspaper in the United States called THE WASHINGTON POST a front page story that in fact just 2 years ago the American CIA had brought before the Intelligence Committee of the Senate a plan to destabilize Grenada, and this newspaper story revealed, by discussions with members of that committee, what went on when the discussion was taking place. And what we discovered is the following: That in the first few months of the revolution the CIA had brought the plan to Jimmy Carter, who was then the president; that this plan had called for propaganda destabilization, for economic destabilization and for military destabilization in Grenada.

According to this newspaper article, Jimmy Carter did not accept the economic destabilization and the military destabilization but he accepted the propaganda destabilization. This same newspaper article in THE WASHINGTON POST went on to say that when Ronald Reagan took power the CIA brought the plan back to Ronald Reagan. And this time, unlike Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan accepted not only the propaganda destabilization but also economic destabilization and what they called other unusual and unspecified methods of destabilization. We have to pause to wonder, comrades, what these other unusual and unspecified methods are. What is this they are talking about, that they were trying to invent in order to overthrow the Grenada revolution?

When we hear of these unspecified and unusual components we have to turn back to the 19th of June 1980 and to wonder if part of these unusual methods was to teach local counterrevolutionaries how to make time bombs which could then be planted in (?Queen's Park) with the aim of wiping out our entire leadership in one blow. When we hear of these unspecified components we have to think back, comrades, to the several plots against the revolution over the years and to the big plot right now again in which they are trying to organize a number of counterrevolutionaries living abroad to try to see if they could use them to attack the revolution.

We have to pause, comrades, to think about these unspecified components, because one of the things that we have to be very clear about is that imperialism is never going to stop attacking our revolution; for as long as the revolution in Grenada is alive, is sound, is healthy and is going forward, they will always try to attack us. And therefore one of the lessons that we must always learn, that we must never ever forget, is that as a young revolutionary process we have a duty to keep our unity; we have a duty to build an organization; we have a duty to remain vigilant; we have a duty to continue to build our consciousness; we have a duty to continue to express our internationalist solidarity with other revolutions and progressive forces; we have a duty to ensure that our revolution continues to march on, ever forward and ever stronger. That is our duty that as Grenadian revolutionaries we must fulfill. [applause]

And comrades, it is very very important for us to realize that this latest threat from Ronald Reagan, coming on top of the whole grievous history, the whole history of destabilization of our process, cannot be an idle threat that we can take lightly. This latest threat from Ronald Reagan is definitely meant to be throwing down the gauntlet to our young revolution. Ronald Reagan is clearly signaling by these words and by the consistency of the attacks against us in recent times that they are getting ready for an all-out assault against our revolutionary process.

Right now in our waters there are several battleships. Right now in these Caribbean waters several battleships are lying around, and in fact, coming down on the plane just now, on the last leg of this trip from India, we got hold of some of these ships and I want to just mention them to you. Right now there are a number of American warships and aircraft carriers carrying out maneuvers in this region. They are supported by other imperialist forces. These maneuvers are just ending, and right within 100 miles of Grenada waters there are six of these ships at this time.

There is one in Dominica called the U.S.S. Nashville. There is one in Antigua called the U.S.S. Eisenhower. There are two in Barbados right now: One called the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy and the other one called the Invincible. And there are also two others right now in Trinidad and Tobago waters.

When we stopped in Barbados just a few hours ago in order to change planes to come on the Grenada and we looked at the tarmac at the Barbados International Airport we saw several Harrier fighter jets parked on the Barbados International Airport tarmac.

And we must remember that some of those same Harrier jets were the jets which were used in some of the recent fighting taking place in the South Atlantic waters of the Malvinas Islands. Comrades, the point is that in this region, just within 100 to 200 miles from our shores, at this very moment, there are several battleships with thousands of American soldiers aboard. There are also several fighter jets and helicopters and gunship helicopters in this region at this time. Now, of course, it is always possible that this could be a coincidence. And if you believe in coincidence, and if you believe in magic and mysticism, you could say it is an accident or a coincidence. But the fact of the matter is that just days after Ronald Reagan has made his threat against Grenada we find so many of his battleships, so many of his helicopters and so many of his fighter planes all within 100 miles to 200 miles of our shores. And not just at the time of his threat, but only 1 or 2 days before we celebrate the fourth anniversary of our popular revolution.

We could never accept that this is just a coincidence, when we pull together the evidence of the last few weeks by this statesman, when we pull together the attempts they made at the Nonaligned Movement to destroy the movement, when we pull together the desperate attempts he made to try to make sure that the revolutions of Nicaragua and Cuba and Grenada and the fighting people of El Salvador did not get any mention in the summit. They tried hard, real hard, to prevent solidarity for our four countries at that summit.

So, comrades, what our own little country Grenada faces at this time is a hostility and aggression that several other revolutions around the world are facing at this time. But I want to tell you, comrades, that in every single case I have called -- in the case of El Salvador, in the case of Nicaragua, in the case of Mozambique, in the case of Angola, in the case of Palestine, in the case of Namibia, in the case of Kampuchea, in the case of Vietnam, every single example of a revolution around the world that is facing imperialism -- everyone has been attacked not only by propaganda, not only by economic aggression, but also by armed invasion; armed invasion, and, comrades, that is the lesson we must draw. The imperialists have tried their propaganda; the imperialists have tried their economic aggression. In both cases they have been severely beaten by our people. And now the imperialists, in their last desperate move, are forced to resort, in the case of Grenada also, to armed aggression.

Make no mistake about this and have no doubt about this, comrades; in exactly the same way that they have had to move to violent force against other popular, progressive revolutions around the world, they are right now -- right now, this very minute -- sitting down and planning the final stages of their armed attack against our revolution. We must have no doubt about that because it is so.

It is very important at this time, comrades, as we undoubtedly face this threat from imperialism, that we renew with firm determination and resolve the commitment and convictions of our people: That what we have here is ours; that what we are building here is ours; that we are going to build this revolution in such a way that we are going to be threatened and intimidated and frightened. Yes, they could drop a bomb and wipe our country off the face of the map. Yes, that is possible, but if they don't choose to drop their bombs to wipe out our country and instead they choose to come or to try to come to humiliate our people, to make us submit, then we must say to them again today, one day before our fourth anniversary, that once they choose to come to land, once they choose to come to try to humble and make us submit, then they will discover that our people will never give up.

Every last man, woman and child in our country will fight with full resolve, until the aggressor is removed from our soil. They will feel the weight of the people of Grenada and the weight of the Grenada revolution. [applause]

COARD LISTS ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, HITS U.S.

FAU3011. St Georges Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Speech by Grenadian Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard at rally to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Grenada revolution and to dedicate the Sandino Housing Materials Complex; location not mentioned -- live]

[Excerpts] Comrade chairman, comrade (Moreno), [not further identified] members of the leadership of our country, members of the diplomatic corps, other invited guests, comrades sisters and brothers:

Today, comrades, we are faced with a very special situation. We are faced with a situation in which if we are to believe certain madmen, this tiny island of Grenada of 100,000 people, 21 miles by 12 miles, is a superpower. We must be a superpower because the mighty United States is the most powerful military force on earth is afraid of us and is trembling in their boots at the prospect of us; if we are to believe the statements of a madman, comrades, on the 10th of March just 2 days ago at 12 noon, I guess the cowboy would say at high noon, President Reagan [2 minute break in transmission]....of the Armed Forces of the United States of America declared that Grenada is a threat to the national security of the United States of America. We must understand, comrades, the context in which this statement was made. We must remember what has been happening during the last 12 weeks because about 12 weeks ago the vice president of the United States, Bush, launched an attack on Grenada by name at the conference in Miami.

A few weeks after that one of the deputy ministers of defense of the United States, a man by the name of Sanchez, launched an attack on Grenada by name. After that we had an attack launched by the defense minister; the secretary of defense of the United States, Caspar Weinberger, an attack also on Grenada. Then at the conference of ministers of the Nonaligned Movement in Managua, Nicaragua, a few weeks ago, the American Government that had no right whatever being at a meeting of the nonaligned countries smuggled the documents into the meeting launching attacks on Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama and Grenada with exception of the documents dealing with Grenada, attacking Grenada. [as heard]

Then we have the President of the United States himself launching his attack on Grenada 2 days ago, on March 10, at high noon.

During an interview, comrades, during an interview on the 9th of March, that is, 3 days ago, in connection with the new U.S. defense report, the United States Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger said that he observed with great concern the increasing capability of the Soviet Union to control the narrow points of the main sea line communications thus threatening allied shipping. Also according to him Cuba is now able to control the sea communications in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and parts of the Atlantic. The military assistance of Cuba and the Soviet Union, according to this defense minister of the United States of America, the assistance of Cuba and the Soviet Union to the tiny island of Grenada has no other explanation, he says, than a projection of Soviet power into the region. Since there is no threat to Grenada, listen to this, comrades, Caspar Weinberger, defense secretary, says since there is no threat to Grenada which could justify military aid of that amount.

The amount he is talking about is all those naval bases; those national Cuban naval bases and air bases and other fantastic military installations that we are supposed to have in Grenada according to these madmen, to these liars. This statement came over the Voice of America. [1 minute break in transmission]

You remember, comrades, you remember the first year, the first 2 years of the revolution when they said, when they published in all the newspapers around the world that are controlled through their CIA journalists, remember when they published that we had a Russian submarine base in Grand Etang. Remember the Russian submarine bases we have in Grand Etang; remember when they said we had a Russian submarine base in Carriacou, then they said we had a Russian submarine base in Calivigny and so on. These people have a very fertile imagination. You know if they put their minds to doing some work maybe the 50 million Americans who are out of work would get jobs if Reagan would concentrate on running America to provide for America and get his scruffy mouth out of Grenada business. [applause] Maybe he should spend his time providing housing for the people of America instead of living in rat-infested housing in America. [applause] Maybe he should restore the social security benefits and the health benefits for the people in America. [applause] Because while they are closing down schools we opened three schools this past week in Grenada. [applause] Three schools opened in Grenada while they are closing schools. While they are closing down hospitals and clinics in America we are opening hospitals and clinics in Grenada every year. [applause] While you have to spend your whole life savings to see a dentist or a doctor you can see a dentist and a doctor free in Grenada. [applause]

But, comrades, it is one thing, it is one thing, all of these spokesmen of the United States imperialists, it is one thing for them to say that they don't like this and they don't that. It is one thing for them to say there are no human rights and no democracy in Grenada; they can talk as much rubbish as they want. It is all right for them to say they don't like our foreign policy or they don't like our economic path of development. It is another thing altogether to say that another country is a threat to your national security because when you say another country is a threat to your national security, it means something coming after that, it means something coming after that. You don't say a man is a threat to you and after say that he is a threat to your national security and then you sit down and relax. And therefore, comrades, this is a new departure. This is a very serious departure. We have to understand the significance of what is being said.

Comrades, this threat, this threat, or this series of threats issued by the vice president of the United States 12 weeks ago, followed by the deputy defense minister, followed by the defense minister of the United States, secretary of defense, followed now by the President of the United States -- these statements and these threats and these provocations must be seen in a context. We must analyze them and understand what they mean in order to determine what action we, the Grenadian people, will have to take in dealing with these threats and provocations.

First of all comrades, and most fundamental of all in my view, the reasons why these threats are being issued at this time is because of the fact that the only economy in the English-speaking Caribbean in the last 4 years to grow and develop is the Grenadian economy in the Grenadian revolution. [applause] While Grenada makes economic progress, the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean has been going backward. While we say forward ever they say backward ever. That is what has been happening to them. The ones that have been acting as the stooges of the imperialists have been catching hell economically. They are going from crisis to crisis.

Thousands upon thousands of their workers have been laid off every month. Their economies are on the verge of collapse and that is the reason for Reagan's so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative to try and see if he could bail them out. But as Brother (Valentine) said, [words indistinct] that famous song sung in (?grease bucket). The Caribbean Basin [word indistinct] and remember that song.

The fact of the matter is commerce, that he sees that our revolution is going from strength to strength. They see that we are making progress on all fronts and they see that their stooges in the area are going backwards every day, and more and more trouble and not able to provide for their people, and therefore they feel that the time has come to try their hand at Grenada again.

We have to see therefore, comrades, we have to remember that in the context of all of this, this Sandino plant here today has tremendous significance. Because in a country we only 20,000 households, a country with only 20,000 households or 20,000 families, a housing plant that can produce 500 houses each year is a tremendous step forward, a giant step forward in building the revolutionary process of our country. A giant step forward [applause]. It means that in a very short space of time, a barely short space of time, this country will have been able to wipe out the housing problem, and the factory to produce 500 houses a year is only that factory facing you over there, that factory over there. That does not even include the other factories: The one from which we speak which makes the blocks and the one on my left which makes the tiles. So here we have three factories with enormous significance for the economic development of our country and for the material well-being of our people, enormous significance. And that is why we see this afternoon's occasion as one of great pride and joy, one of great significance and importance. Because these three factories in one complex has enormous importance for raising the living standards of the people of Grenada and t[illegible] this, for this, we must thank wholeheartedly the government and people of Cuba.

You know, comrades, you know comrades, what Reagan is really afraid of Cuba for is not military aid to Grenada, it is the economic aid to Grenada tha has him crazy. It is the economic assistance, it is assistance in health and education, it is the assistance in building the international airport to make our country independent. That is what Reagan and his cowboys are afraid of. [applause] It is the university scholarships for our youths to study medicine, dentistry and engineering. It is the opportunity for our young poor students to go to the university and be able to come back and serve their country. That is what frightens Reagan and his gang because it means development for our country in the future. It means training all of our people in the skills to build this country. That is what Reagan is really afraid of.

Comrades, you must understand that if the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean is going backward and catching their ass [laughter] economically while Grenada moves forward economically and politically, we must understand therefore, comrades, that imperialism is not only afraid about the question of the Grenadian revolution becoming more and more consolidated inside Grenada. What frightens them even more is that the masses of the Caribbean will say if Grenada could build 500 houses a year for the people, why can't we? If Grenada could provide 73,000 pounds of milk to 50,000 Grenadians every month, why can't we? If Grenada could provide for a country of 100,000 people, 17,244 Grenadians could get materials to fix their homes in the first 4 years of revolution, why can't we? If Grenada can be building 300 houses over (?tower right in Tublu) with the first 50 going up right now and almost finished, why can't we? If Grenada can grow by 5.5 percent at a time of economic crisis in the capitalist world, why can't we?

If Grenada can move unemployment from 50.9 percent to 14 percent and down to 0 percent, why can't we? And therefore, comrades, what is happening to them? Why they are trembling in their boots, is because they realize that we are serious in this country about developing our country. We are serious about planning the development of our country. We are serious about involving all our people in the grassroots democratic structures, in expanding our production and our productivity and in building our society. They see we are serious in trying to be economically and politically independent in our country. They see, comrades, that all of this is likely to inspire the masses in the rest of the Caribbean and therefore they are afraid of us not because, not only because they want to crush revolution everywhere, they want to crush the aspirations of the oppressed people everywhere, but also because they are afraid of the example of Grenada in the rest of the Eastern Caribbean.

It is not insignificant, comrades, it is not by accident that more and more people in more and more of the Caribbean and the world, including American newspapers and journals in recent weeks and months, are beginning to talk about Grenada as a model for economic and political development in the Caribbean. That is not accidental and that is one of the things that makes them crazy. Because if you read carefully Reagan's attack on us 2 days ago, he attacked a number of journalists in America because of what they have to say about Grenada.

Comrades, I want to draw your attention to something that we must never forget, and that is the record of the United States Government over the years -- their record for telling lies, for making up stories when they want to invade a country -- when they want to engage in a massive campaign of destabilization.

And therefore, comrades, just like the police force in all countries they have something called the form, every criminal has his form. You know, some criminals always go through the back window. Other criminals use a special technique to get in a window. Other criminals, when they want to burgle a house always cut a hole in the roof to get in. In other words, every criminal has a special technique so the police all over the world know if you see a crime committed in a certain way you have a list of those criminals who use that particular technique, that particular form. Every criminal has his trademark, and this criminal has his trademark too. When you are about to attack other people, claim that they are about to attack you. When you are about to attack other people, claim that they are a threat to you and that they are threat to their neighbors. And therefore, comrades, we have to understand this trademark of the criminal we are dealing with, the criminal of United States imperialism. And therefore, comrades, we have to be on our guard because when the President of the United States, who is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, says that we are a threat to the national security of the United States, I want you to note that it is not an official of the United States Government saying that. It is not a press officer saying that. It is not an informed source close to the government saying that. It is not even the deputy minister of defense saying it. It is not even the vice president of the US saying it. It is now the President and commander in chief of the Armed Forces saying it. And therefore we have to see it as extremely grave and serious to the national security, to the sovereignty, to the independence, to the liberty of the people of Grenada, Carricou and [word indistinct].

Comrades, we must recognize that a serious task faces us now. We must recognize, as I said before, that when one country says that another country is a threat to the national security, that is the closest thing to a declaration of war without actually declaring war.

That a country says that another country is a threat to their national security that means that something else is coming after that statement. You don't make a statement like that and then sit back. You must recognize, comrades, that not only are they planning further actions of destabilization and aggression against our country, like what they have begun to admit now in their press in the last few weeks, but that they have already started this campaign.

We must see the state of rumors in our country in recent weeks as part of that campaign, given the systematic spread of them. We must see that a number of activities taking place in neighboring islands are aimed against Grenada. We must see that these imperialists, the CIA, always use such a technique. They try to mobilize Grenadians living abroad. They try to bribe them, to influence them; they try to see if they can use them and make them become counterrevolutionaries. They try and see if they can use any counterrevolutionary elements inside the country in order to get away with their campaign, because it is very important for the CIA to be able to establish links with counterrevolutionary elements both inside and outside the country in order to succeed in their plans. And this has been their problem for the last 4 years. Their problem for the last 4 years is that they have been totally unsuccessful in doing that, but they continue to try and try harder, and we must continue to be vigilant, to be aloof, to be on our guard.

So, comrades, we must recognize that they already started their actions against us: The propaganda campaign inside the United States, the propaganda campaign in the Caribbean newspapers; this systematic spreading of rumors; the attempt to contact counterrevolutionary elements inside and outside the country; the fact that they have battleships in Antigua right now, in Barbados right now, in Trinidad right now, in Puerto Rico right now. The fact is that only 200 miles from Grenada right now -- and you know that in a plane 200 miles is only a few minutes; 200 miles in a plane, in a jet fighter, is only a few minutes -- less than 200 miles from our shore right now they have over 300 war planes, over 300 war planes and battleships; battleships on several islands, in several countries surrounding our country right at this moment that I speak to you. But we are not afriad, comrades. This revolution is not afraid of imperialism and will never be afraid of imperialism . [applause] If they want to come, let them come. We will throw them in the sea. [applause]

HISTORY OF RELATIONS WITH USSR EXAMINED

FL142214 Bridgetown CANA in English 1733 GMT 14 Mar 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 14 CANA -- A luxurious, white western-made Mercedes-Benz in which a burly, middle-aged diplomat of East European origin rides in fast becoming a familiar sight on Grenada's dusty, narrow and winding roads.

The diplomat is Gennadiy Sazhenev, the first-ever Soviet ambassador to Grenada, who has set up an embassy in a modest building near the government-controlled "Radio Free Grenada" at Morne Rouge in the south of the island.

And four miles away, at the offices of the Grenadian prime minister in Belmont, Moscow has installed a wire service of the official Soviet news agency, TASS, to inform Grenadians of world events.

These events represent part of the growing Soviet presence in this 133-square mile island following a March 13, 1979 coup which brought to power here the pro-Cuba New Jewel Movement (NJM) of opposition leader Maurice Bishop.

The Soviet Union is one of a number of countries in the socialist community with which the leftist NJM government has established diplomatic relations.

Relations between Grenada and the Soviet Union were almost non-existent during the time of former right-wing prime minister Eric Gairy. But since the coup Moscow has shown an increasing interest in the eastern Caribbean islands that has an agricultural-based economy. Within months of the armed overthrow of Sir Eric the two countries agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

Shortly after formalising relations, Grenada's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Trade [as received] Bernard Coard flew to Moscow at the head of the first official Grenadian delegation to the Soviet Union to strengthen trade relations between the two countries.

The visit ended with the Kremlin announcing that it would donate 3 million East Caribbean (E.C.) dollars (one E.C. dollar: 37 cents U.S.) worth of machinery for use by the ministry of agriculture and the government newly-created National Cooperative Development Agency (NACDA) here. The equipment, government officials later reported, included tractors, trucks, irrigation pumps and spare parts. But some political observers here noted that the Russians moved cautiously in intensifying its relations with the Caribbean island in light of well circulated press reports that Moscow was building a naval vase on the island, a claim Grenada has dismissed.

However, relations between the two notably intensified after Grenada became the lone English-speaking Caribbean country to vote against a Non-aligned Movement-sponsored resolution in the United Nations calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The resolution was clearly aimed at the Soviet Union, which had reportedly sent 85,000 troops into Afghanistan, staging a coup to install a pro-Soviet regime. Since then Soviet economic assistance to the island has increased.

In July 1982 Prime Minister Bishop led a high-powered ministerial delegation to Moscow to sign substantial economic and political agreements with the Soviet government which he said would reduce Grenada's dependence on the West. Moscow agreed to make 9 million dollars (U.S.) in aid available to the island. Of this amount there was sizable loan of 7.5 million dollars to be used for the establishment of a satellite earth station and to carry out a wide range of technical assistance and feasibility studies on the island. The studies, according to an official statement here, will cover oil and water conservation, irrigation, cement manufacture, fisheries development, and the possibility of a harbour for the island's east coast. Under this major economic and technical cooperation agreement, the Soviet Union also agreed to offer a gift of 1.5 million U.S. dollars for Grenada to purchase 500 tonnes of steel, 400 tonnes of flour and a light aircraft to be used in spraying crops.

The two countries also signed a five-year trade pact under which the Russians agreed to purchase at "stable price" vital export commodities such as nutmegs and cocoa, two of Grenada's main crops. An inter-party agreement between the NJM and the Soviet Communist Party was also signed. No details have emerged on this.

Prime Minister Bishop, on his return home, told reporters that the agreements would help "disengage Grenada from the world system of imperialism" and counter what he called Washington's aggressive and intimidating behaviour in the Caribbean region. Grenada, he said, was embarking "on a national democratic and anti-imperialist path which requires that relations be established with the socialist community and in particular with the Soviet Union."

The Grenadian leader, an admirer of Cuban President Fidel Castro, also said that he was deeply impressed with the Soviet position in support of national liberation movements, the decolonisation process and "principled fraternal assistance" to Third World countries. He stressed that based on experience, aid from the socialist camp was prompt and without "any conditions" while that from the West, mainly the United States, "is always hinged and premised under conditions we find hard to accept." Within months of the return of Prime Minister Bishop from Moscow, a Grenada-Soviet friendship society was formed. At its launching, the familar chant of the gathering of mostly youths, their arms raised in the clenched-fist salute, was: "Long live Grenada, "Long Live the Soviet Union, Long live proletarian internationalism."

ECONOMIC PROGRESS, TIES WITH EAST VIEWED

FL1341621 Bridgetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 13 Mar 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 13, CANA -- Today's fourth anniversary of the leftist coup that installed the Maurice Bishop regime here finds Grenada cementing its ties with the East and pressing ahead with its own brand of socio-economic revolution.

While there is no sign yet of plans for promised general elections to "legitimise" the regime in the eyes of its myriad Western critics, few would argue with the fact that the revolution has produced gains for 110,000 population. Only two weeks ago Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard announced a whopping 1982 economic growth rate for the 133 square mile island of 5.5 per cent.

That's twice what Grenada's traditionally well managed pro-Western neighbour Barbados returned last year, as the world recession bit into regional economies. Coard said then the island was spending less on food imports, implying that Grenadians were producing more of what they eat. In fact he said the island's food import bill rose by only 2.9 per cent last year over 1981's performance.

Not that Grenada's economic performance has been all good news: Of the traditional exports, sales abroad of bananas and cocoa fell dramatically last year. It took some aggressive marketing of fruits and vegetables and a modest increase in sales of nutmeg and mace to hold the total fall in 1982 export earnings to 1.3 million dollars. The 1981 total was 51.4 million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cent U.S.). Grenada's revolutionary leaders have spent most of their time since the March 13, 1979 pre-dawn coup wrestling with the grave social and economic problems of the country and dealing firmly with opponents regarded as counter-revolutionary.

The rest was largely taken up with a hunt for foreign aid, mainly from the Soviet bloc, as well as with efforts to win friends in the Middle East and Africa to defeat what the government maintains are attempts by the United States to isolate the country because of its strong ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

In the meantime Washington has kept its distance from St Georges, accrediting its Eastern Caribbean Ambassador Milan Bish to all the other countries but Grenada. In Washington likewise Grenada Ambassador Dessima Williams is accredited only to the Organisation of American States. Since Moscow received Prime Minister Bishop on an official visit last year, a Soviet Embassy has been established here, and Ambassador Genadly Sazhenev has brought with him the official Soviet news agency TASS, which now services the island. In the English-speaking Caribbean, Grenada stands alone ideologically following the fall of the People's National Party (PNP) government of Michael Manley in Jamaica's 1980 general elections.

At home the government's most prestigous post-revolution project, a modern 71 million dollar (U.S.) international airport being constructed with substantial Cuban assistance should be fully in operation by the fifth anniversary of the revolution. Cuba has also donated a fishing fleet to the island, as well as tractors and other heavy machinery to aid the development of the agricultural sector, and a batch of doctors who have done much to raise the standard of health services here. From Moscow has come in recent months a promise to extend a 7.5 million dollar (U.S.) line of credit to the Caribbean island to finance the construction of a satellite earth station, and a wide range of technical assistance and feasibility studies.

Officials here have said that the studies will cover oil and water conservation, irrigation, cement manufacture, fisheries development, the possibilities of a harbour for the island's east coast, and a sewerage disposal system. On the western front while Washington maintains that Grenada will get U.S. aid the Canadians have provided 17 million dollars (E.C.) towards a 20.3 million dollar cocoa rehabilitation project aimed at putting 10,000 acres under cocoa trees, and to increase farm income and employment in Grenada. Economically, the government has registered, according to its own statistics, growth rates of 2.1 percent in 1979, three percent each in 1980 and 1981 and the remarkable 5.5 percent last year.

These successes government officials say were linked to the fact that over the past four years the government has spent some 237 million dollars on development projects to help spur economic growth. Projects include the rehabilitation of old run down roads and construction of new ones with assistance from the European Economic Community (EEC), and the setting up of a block and tile making factory complex with help from Cuba. The list of projects also includes a multi-million dollar house repair programme with assistance from (OPEC) Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the setting up of a national transport system, and the construction of new buildings to house a modern telephone system coming soon from East Germany.

Bishop contends that through these development projects government has been able to reduce the island's unemployment rate from a staggering 49 percent under the former Sir Eric Gairy regime to 14 percent in 1982. With the government casting aside the Westminister model of parliamentary democracy as a "dead corpse" here, it has moved to institute a system of "grassroot politics" through the creation of zonal and parish councils, as well as worker's parish councils.

Participation in these various councils which convene on a monthly basis is by invitation. These bodies are dubbed by government as "people's assemblies" -- avenues for discussing community issues, and bringing bureaucrats and government leaders to face the people with a view to solving problems. One body which feels left out of this so-called "people's participatory democracy" is the Grenada Hotels Association (GHA).

GHA president Rayston Hopkin told a hoteliers meeting attended by Prime Minister Bishop that both his association and the Grenada Tourist Board (GTB) were willing and able to make important inputs, but were not being given the chance to do so. As in the case of elections, the government has been silent on the media code it promised shortly after closing the 22-year old independent TORCHLIGHT newspaper years ago.

If its any consolation there's been no public campaign here for either - elections or the media code. Grenada, which under Gairy had been accustomed to five-yearly elections, last went to the polls in December 1976.

HAITI

GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER CRITICIZES POPE, CLERGY

PA1216Z1 Paris AFP in Spanish 2002 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Mar (AFP) -- In its first reaction to Pope John Paul's speeches in the country, the Haitian Government today attacked those who "give lessons" and those who "make accusations." This reaction appeared in the official newspaper LE NOUVEAU MONDE.

The newspaper -- which did not publish the homily which the pope delivered at the Port-au-Prince Airport, and in which he said "that things had to change" -- stressed that the holy pontiff pointed out the "efforts made by the government of President Jean-Claude Duvalier to establish a society based on political liberty, social justice and prosperity."

LE NOUVEAU MONDE also published a virilent article written by Ernest Bennett, the president's father-in-law. The article condemned "some members of the Haitian clergy" and "speculating priests," whose benefits serve "to pay for costly vehicles, trips abroad every 3 months, or simply to keep expensive mistresses."

Bennett affirmed that John Paul's tour "will be beneficial if the holy father shakes himself of the disinformation spread by some clergy members and understands that Haiti does not have the problems of other countries, but a problem of understanding, a problem of aid."

After recalling the scandal of the Ambosian Bank and the church "which rides on the pillion pad of the Soviet Union," the Haitian president's father-in-law concluded by stating: "Roman Catholics, it was about time that you knew what travel agency you are trusting to arrange the trip to the great beyond."

JAMAICA

SEAGA MEETS SAUDI, KUWAITI, SINGAPORE OFFICIALS

FL112311 Bridgetown CANA in English 2107 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 11, CANA -- The Jamaica prime minister, Edward Seaga, met senior ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore in New Delhi yesterday hoping to nudge them into providing development assistance and investment to this northern Caribbean island.

According to a government statement here, Mr Seaga, attending the non-aligned summit in the Indian capital, had discussions with Kuwait's deputy prime minister on possible funding for development projects in Jamaica.

The Jamaican leader had met with officials of the Kuwait Development Fund in Washington last October and a project identification mission was to have come to Kingston in December, but the trip was postponed.

The statement here said that the sheik promised that Kuwait would follow-up the matter and assured Mr Seaga that falling oil prices had not affected his country's development fund. "We will still finance projects to help our brothers," he was quoted as saying.

The prime minister also had talks with Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faisal who undertook to expedite response to Jamaica's request for aid through the Saudi Development Fund. A team from the fund that came to Jamaica last month was presented with projects for funding involving road repair and construction, water supplies, irrigation and drainage, the government said.

The discussions with the Singapore deputy minister, Mr Rajaratnam centre on Jamaica's quest to garner labour intensive investments now being discouraged by Singapore and other Asian newly industrialised countries seeking investment in high technology. The statement here have no indication of Singapore's reaction to the Jamaican thrust.

BOUTERSE SCORES NETHERLANDS POLICY, THANKS CASTRO

PA1102l8 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 10 Mar 83

["Special Edition" commentary program]

[Text] In an extraordinarily strong speech, Lieutenant Colonel Davsi Bouterse, strongman of Suriname, has accused the Netherlands of wanting to overthrow his government. Bouterse filed this accusation in New Delhi, which is hosting the Nonaligned Movement meeting.

Bouterse charged that the Netherlands media is controlled by the state and that the Netherlands is implementing economic blackmail against his country by interrupting its development aid to Suriname.

From New Delhi, a report by (Dinah Offenderg):

[Begin recording] There are two things in Bouterse's attack on the Netherlands that catch one's attention: He didn't mention the United States, although that country also suspended its economic aid to Suriname, and his accusations about the Netherlands maintaining ties with South Africa and the Netherlands relations with Israel.

Bouterse said: [The Netherlands] business with Israel is better than ever despite the killing of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila, for which Israel is responsible.

The leader of the Suriname Army repeatedly scored the Netherlands for its colonialism, domination, neocolonialism, manipulation and exploitation of the Suriname people. He also charged economic aggression because the Netherlands has not respected the development aid agreement. And all this, he added, after three centuries of Netherlands colonial government, which was characterized by the complete enslaving of the Suriname people and the exploitation and sacking of the national wealth.

Bouterse was especially bitter when he referred to the counterrevolutionary movement fueled, according to him, by The Hague, and to the Netherlands support for mercenary armies that would try to seek power in Suriname through violence.

Bouterse said: These counterrevolutionaries have already tried on three occasions to paralyze the reform process necessary in our society. Referring to the execution last December of 15 prominent Surinamese, the military leader said that 15 lives were lost as a result of military action to prevent the danger of a civil war.

In referring to Netherlands radio and television programs, Bouterse pointed his accusing finger at our radio station. He said: This radio station, Radio Netherlands, which is controlled by the government, every day uses powerful transmitters to launch antigovernment propaganda to create an environment of fear and social chaos in Suriname.

Bouterse's fierce speech in New Delhi concluded with a warm thank you for Fidel Castro's solidarity. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW TANA CHAPTER -- Freddy Balzan, executive secretary of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, recently returned from Suriname, where a TANA chapter has been organized. The Suriname chapter of TANA will be presided over by (Harry Helicock), an intellectual who enjoys great prestige in the Caribbean. [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 83 PA]